

Concordia Newsletter

December 2023



Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School
216 5th Ave SE. Conover, NC 28613

Church 828.464.3324 | School 828.464.3011

Rev. Michael Geml, Sr. Pastor 828.464.3324 x303 | C 517.395.8422

Mr. David Beringer, Principal 828.464.3301 x202

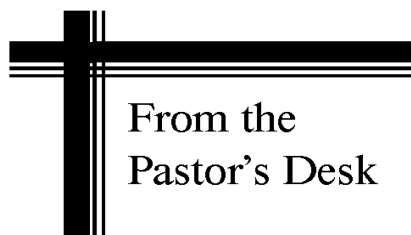
Church website: <https://www.concordianc.org>

Church office email: sharman@concordianc.org

Worship Times

Sunday 9:00a Contemporary

Sunday 11:00a Traditional



From the Pastor's Desk

DO YOU RECALL?

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donder and Blitzen, but do you recall the most famous reindeer of all? Of course we do. Everyone knows the most famous reindeer of all. It has not always been the case though. The truth is that prior to 1939 no one had ever heard of the most famous reindeer of all because he didn't exist. Rudolph first appeared in a 1939 booklet put out by Montgomery Ward. But, here it is eighty-four years later, and Rudolph is still flying high. Who knows, maybe he will go down in history.

Fantasy, magical stories and fictional legends have become so much a part of Christmas in our culture that most of us can easily recall the names of all 9 reindeer. But do you recall, not the most famous, but the ONLY Savior of all? Of course we do. The beloved stories of flying reindeer and talking snowmen, stories of heartless Grinches, and Red Rider B.B. Guns, need not be cast aside. They make us smile and bring a certain warmth and nostalgia to the season. But they must never take the place of the Savior whose birth we celebrate.

Do you recall the only Savior of all? The One who came to us in the flesh, from the Father full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Far too many who are called to Him, who received Him as their Savior from sin, who confess Jesus to be the only Savior, far too many recall Him so infrequently that He has little influence in their daily lives. Jesus came to be Savior of the world not just for a day or two during the year. Jesus is our daily, hourly, yearly Savior who is with us always. To all who bear the name of Jesus, who claim Him to be the Savior, His call to us never changes. *Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king. (From LSB #367)*

Merry Christmas to all and to all a Good Night!

Pastor Geml



Worship Christ the newborn KING!

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Concordia Lutheran Church Advent Services



Midweek #1 "Promise Made"
Isaiah 7:10-14
Matthew 1:18-23

Midweek #2 "Promise Kept"
John 1:1-5, 14
Galatians 4:4-7

Midweek #3 "Promise Continues"
Titus 2:11-14
Matthew 28:16-20

Promises, promises, promises. We all make them and we try our best to keep them. We also know that, try as we might, some promises we make won't be kept. Trust can be severely damaged by promises not kept. How thankful we are that our Heavenly Father is completely worthy of our trust. His promises are sure and certain and unchanging. In Christ Jesus, God the Father has made promises, kept promises, and continues promises. The Season of Advent is upon us. Let us gather for mid-week worship to rejoice and receive from God His promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Bless you for your kindness!

How I love thee. Let me count the ways. I wanted to send out a heartfelt thank you to all of my Concordia Family for all the prayers, meals, kind and uplifting notes that you have so lovingly sent. Every day I have felt your presence. I wouldn't have been able to make the journey without both you and God. Love, Nilza Artelt.





Youth Ministry Program Update



We have a new Youth Logo that reflects the three pillars of our youth program. Thank you to Susan Harman for her work on this.

The youth will no longer meet on Wednesday evenings, but will meet on Sundays (or some other time during the weekend). Too many students could not attend meetings on Wednesdays because of sports and other extra-curricular activities. This also allows us to meet with other area youth groups who meet on Sundays. We plan on regularly having Bible studies as well as a service activity and a fellowship activity each month.

On Oct. 22 we invited the youth groups from St. Stephens, St. Johns, St. Peters and Christ Lutheran to join us for the “Three D” gathering. We had Devotions, Dinner and an awesome Dodgeball game. We had 10 Concordia youth attend and 32 youth overall. We plan on doing this again at St. Stephens Lutheran in January. We also attended the SED Youth Gathering in Virginia on November 3-5 with 149 other youth and on November 12 we helped some of our older Concordia members with some yard work.

Bill Unverfehrt has also started a “Hang-Out Time” on Tuesdays from 3-5 pm for the CCDS Middle School Students. These students come to the Youth Center to hear about upcoming youth events, play games and spend time with their friends. We averaged 23 youth the first three weeks. Our goal is to eventually get them involved as a group in church youth activities.

In December our youth will have the opportunity to be a part of the Congregational Extravaganza and Christmas Caroling on December 3. They can participate in either one or both, if they have time.

On December 9 we are traveling to Mountainside Lutheran to help give the kids at Crossnore School a Christmas party. These are students who have been removed from their families by the court system and we want them to understand the love of Jesus extends to them also.

Our Senior Youth will be joining St. John’s Lutheran youth for a lock-in on Friday, December 15. The schedule includes seeing Christmas lights, devotions, gift exchange, eating, games, movies, and breakfast the next morning. Sleep is not on the agenda.

We will have a Christmas gift wrapping party on Sunday, December 17 at 12:00. We will be wrapping gifts for the family that we are supporting for Christmas. **Congregational members can help supplement the \$10 that the youth are contributing toward these gifts.** To better understand the need, the parents usually just ask for food and the basics such as clothes and shoes. Just drop your donation off at the church office or in the offering plate marked for the Youth Christmas Family.

Our Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops are doing well. There is a Boy Scout Court of Review on November 27 and a Boy Scout Court of Honor on December 11 to recognize the many accomplishments of our scout troop. To see all of the activities that they are doing – go to the Troop 383 Facebook Page.

You can see pictures of our youth in action on our Facebook Page at Concordia Lutheran Youth NC.

Please pray for our youth as they navigate the challenges of today’s world.



Hospital/Out Patient: Doc Canrobert.

Blessings to: Landen & Mackinzie (Brewer) Wagener upon the birth of a son, Landen Emerson Wagener. Renee' Christie is a great-grandmother; Matt & Rachel Kaylor upon the birth of a son, Mason Wade Kaylor on Oct. 26th.

Sympathy to: Jimmy Martin and family upon the death of his half-brother, Ken; The family of Kaye Deal; Sandi Chi and family upon the death of H. Y.; St. John's Lutheran Church and the family of Sr. Pastor Johnson.

Other Prayer Needs: Our church and school staff and students; the unchurched in our area and throughout the world; our church, school; church leadership; peace; our national and world leaders; People in Ukraine; World Hunger Crisis; Marriages; Sudan, War in Israel.

YEAR-END QUILTING MESSAGE

As the year comes to an end, the quilting group would like to express our thanks to the people who made our year so successful. Since we operate on donations, we are grateful to all our donors.

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- 1) Roger and Betty Heavner for material and backing.
- 2) Tim McRee for batting.
- 3) Ann Marie Blackmon for the \$250 Thrivent Action Team funds.
- 4) Frances Propst for material and a Thrivent Action Team grant.
- 5) Mary Ann Nolte for material.
- 6) Terri Ellis for material.
- 7) Norm Hilmer for the wonderful wooden rack that holds our batting.
- 8) Anonymous donors who quietly left material in our room.
- 9) Renee Christie for material.
- 10) Ron Williams for material.
- 11) The Dorcas group for money to ship our quilts.
- 12) Sharon Knowles for boxes to ship our quilts and for coming in during her spare time to bind the quilts.
- 13) Our wonderful church staff: Susan Harman, Leslie Brown and Kyle McClure for all the many small ways they help us.

This year we shipped 53 quilts. Quilts shipped through Lutheran World Relief go all over the world.

These ladies who lovingly sew, tie and bind quilts are: Ann Marie Blackmon, Etta Gardner, Ann Holt, Sheri Hiler, Sharon Knowles, Mary Ann Nolte, Sandy Smith and Joyce Pugh.

Our motto has become "He who sleeps under a quilt is covered with love."





The 5th Sunday offering in December will be used to support Safe Harbor of NC. Safe Harbor provides a Christ-centered community to help women rebuild, renew and recover. Residential programs, community center services, classes, workshops and support groups assist women in achieving long-term recovery and sobriety. Safe Harbor also provides safe places for women and children experiencing homelessness. Programs are designed to help women find their purpose in life and their identity in Christ.



Joyful Stitches meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 5:30p in the BLCFM. They also meet on the first & third Fridays at 2pm in the BLCFM. Join us at one or each time we meet! Bring a beverage and a project to work on. If you have questions, please contact Dianne Lawing at 828-850-1460 or Susan Harman in the church office.



PrimeTimers are providing the meal after the Advent Service on WEDNESDAY, December 13th. Bring a covered dish to share with those that will worship with us at 11:30a. Lunch will be served at noon.

Tis the Season!

It will soon be time to choose your holiday cards you will share with family and friends and the LWML can help! We are selling assorted boxes of lovely Christmas cards! Please stop in the transept to look over the display of options and make your selection! Order forms are available at the display. All proceeds will be used for LWML missions.



If you are interested in learning more about LWML, you can sign up for their newsletter by emailing shirleymarquart@gmail.com The LWML Carolinas Cross Connection will arrive in your inbox every other month. This will save postage and printing costs for the LWML.

International Mission Trip

The Costa Rica Mission Trip Team will be back by the time you read this. They flew out on Saturday, November 18 and returned on Friday, November 24. The members of the team were Chris, Stephanie, Bethany, Andy, Jamie and Jordan Henze, Maggie & Zach White, Jennifer Montgomery, Abby & Sonny Pruitt, Ellie Walker, Jackson Bryan, Lindy & Audra Kuchenbecker, Natalie Williams, Julie & Matt Moser, and Laura & Cayla Miller. Thank you for your support in making this mission trip possible.



In December, our youth will be travelling to Mountainside Lutheran Church to assist celebrating the children and families at Crossnore School. Mountainside Lutheran is hosting a Christmas Party on the Camp Linn Haven campus in Linville, NC. The 7th – 12th grade youth will meet at 9:30a on Saturday, December 9th. The party is from 1p to 4p. This is an opportunity for the youth to meet the families they served at Teen Servant Week at Crossnore School and connect with youth from Bethel and St. Stephens.



December 9, 1-3, Emmaus Room, Janet Shores will speak, LWML members from neighboring churches will participate. Gifts may be dropped off in advance if unable to attend.

Popular baby shower gifts include diapers, especially large sizes, crib linens, infant and toddler clothes, and nursery furniture. Gently used items are welcome. Bring your gift to the party, or leave it in the crib in the transept near the offices.



A new way to keep in touch!

To keep in touch with the happenings in the Southeastern District, you can sign up for their weekly newsletter by subscribing [here](#) or scan the QR Code.



Ladies' Christmas Brunch

On Thursday, December 14, beginning at 10:30 am, there will be a brunch with a short devotional for our Concordia women. You will need to use the QR code below to reserve a FREE ticket. Seating is limited! If you are unable to use the QR code, please call the church office at 828.464.3324





How do you honor the true gift of Christmas? People all over the world celebrate the Christmas holidays by giving gifts to each other. But let us remember not to get ahead of ourselves. The yearly calendar dates Christmas as Christmas Eve (December 24) and Christmas Day (December 25). The traditional twelve days of Christmas that follow then leads us up to Epiphany. But what about those days prior to Christmas called Advent? If we are truly going to honor the real gift of Christmas, it must begin by preparing our hearts for His coming into our world. Advent is the time of an arrival or coming. We plan and make many special preparations at this time of year. We hang a wreath on our front door, put up and decorate a Christmas tree, add special lights to our home, buy gifts, wrap gifts, bake special treats, go to Christmas parades, plan or go to Christmas parties/events, etc. All of these activities have become tradition throughout the years. More importantly though, we must prepare our hearts for His arrival. We must remember to place our focus on preparing the coming of our Savior. How do we do this? Place an Advent wreath in your home and do an Advent devotion with your family. Set up a Nativity set, attend Advent worship services, share the Christmas story with loved ones, and engage in anything that puts Jesus in the center of your celebration! Advent is that period of time to get ready, to be prepared, and to wait for that most perfect gift – Jesus!

This year the Sunday School children are getting their hearts ready for Jesus' coming as they prepare for the Family Christmas Eve Worship Service. They will be leading the worship service by presenting, "Love Came Down." The children will lead us to the real gift of Christmas by taking us down the road of Advent where they reveal what Jesus came to give us through His Presence in our sin stained world.

Please join us as we encounter Jesus as our Hope, our Joy, our Peace, and the One who gives us the ultimate and unconditional gift of Love! Love indeed came down at Christmas for one and for all! Come journey with us!



The Parent Block

Spiritual Building Blocks for Parents

Written by Kathy Unverfehrt



Scripture Verse

**“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.”**

Psalm 28:7

Reflection

Every day God’s presence is with you. He is your strength when the world seems to be devouring you. When the responsibilities of work, parenting, and family life begin to over-whelm you, God is right there in the middle of all the chaos. When you rely on His strength and put your trust in Him, He promises to help you. As a result, you will experience a joyful heart that will want to praise and give thanks to the Lord for His goodness to you. This is called gratitude – the quality of being thankful, to show appreciation for, and to return kindness. As parents, it is important to model a grateful heart so that your children will develop an attitude of gratitude. Children today are growing up in a world of overabundance and materialism. They take for granted what they already have, while still desiring more. Teaching your child to be thankful for what he has, and what he receives, is the beginning of learning how to be grateful. A thankful heart leads to a grateful heart. Several studies over the past years have found that gratitude is linked to happiness in children by age 5. They also revealed that grateful children tend to be more optimistic, have greater satisfaction with their family, school, friends, and themselves. Kids who are grateful also tend to be more hopeful about their future as they reflect on things that have happened in their past. So where and how do you begin teaching your children how to be grateful? The where is in their daily life as you teach them about everything God has done for them and for your family. The how begins with having a thankful heart and praising God for His goodness through their words and actions.

Parent Commitment

*I will tell my child about the blessings God has given to our family.
I will teach my child to praise and give thanks to God for His many gifts.*





Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide a comprehensive, excellence-driven education in which an integrated faith in Jesus Christ is fostered, celebrated, and shared throughout our community.

December Mission Project

Chapel offerings will be donated to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The entire student body packed a total of 245 shoeboxes on November 17! This is a fun opportunity to share the Gospel with children to the ends of the earth!



CCDS LOVES SANTA COPS

As part of our community outreach for December, we ask our students to bring in an unwrapped toy to donate to Santa Cops, a program from the Conover Police Department. Our students enjoy participating in this every year. Anyone interested in giving may drop off new, unwrapped toys in the large Santa Cops box outside the school office.

PTO SPIRIT NIGHT

The Concordia PTO is having a Spirit Night on **Tuesday, December 5**, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm at Nagano Japanese Restaurant in Conover. Show your support for our school and visit Nagano for lunch, dinner, or both!



Japanese Restaurant

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR GROUP IN THE YEARBOOK

Work has begun on Concordia's 2023-2024 Yearbook. The yearbook grows and improves each year, making an excellent keepsake for the school year. We are asking individuals, groups, and companies to help sponsor the yearbook to help keep the purchase price down. Ad prices are as follows: Full Page = \$100, ½ Page = \$50 and ¼ Page = \$25. All persons interested in placing an ad in the yearbook or making a donation should call the school office (464-3011) or stop by to pick up an order form. Please email your artwork or logo in a digital format to Yearbook@ConcordiaNC.org. All ad orders, artwork, and payments are due by Wednesday, January 10. Thank you for your support!

GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Thursday, November 2, was a crisp, sunny fall day, perfect for the Golf Tournament! We had 19 teams compete, and the Peoples Bank team (David Reitzel, Sam Parker, Will Choplin, and Max Edwards) won! Many thanks to Mark Duncan for organizing the event and all the volunteers who helped it run smoothly! A huge thank you to R&D Plastics, our Platinum Sponsor. Our Gold Sponsors were Bennett Funeral Service, Carolina Wealth Stewardship Group, Foothills Structural Engineers, Recycling Equipment Inc., and Startown Veterinary Hospital. CR Laine, Custom Coatings Inc., and Firehouse Subs were Silver Sponsors. Thank you to everyone who played and sponsored holes. The tournament raised \$13,620!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar for these beautiful events. All friends and family are welcome to attend. In addition to these programs, on December 3, the 1st- 4th-grade students and families will join us for worship at the 9:00 am service. On December 10, the 5th- 8th-grade students and families will join us at the 11:00 am service.



News from...

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Your Lutheran High School

December 2023

New Website!

The UCHS website, www.uchigh.com, has a whole new look! Check us out!

January Open House

Rising 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grade Families are invited to attend an Open House on January 29th, 6:00 pm. Come see for yourself how UCHS is uniquely qualified to educate, support, and prepare students for college and beyond.

Model UN Success

Seven UCHS students attended the High School Model United Nations Conference at Appalachian State University to compete against other high school MUN clubs from across the state. Out of the 218 high school participants at the conference, four of our UCHS delegates earned certificates! Braxton Brown and Cole Isaak earned Outstanding Delegate certificates, while Sean Roth and Will Underwood were rewarded Honorable Mention certificates,. Congratulations to all seven UCHS-MUN members who attended the conference and made an impressive showing. Well done, delegates!

Mr. Jon Guelzow – NC Senior Games

Congratulations to our newly retired Mr. Jon Guelzow for his strong showing in the swimming events at the State Senior Games in Cary, NC. Mr. Guelzow placed 1st in the 100-yard IM, 3rd in the 100-yard Free, 4th in the 200-yard Free, and 5th in the 50-yard Free. Wow!

UCHS Admissions 2024-2025

UCHS is still accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year! Don't delay, the Spring Admissions deadline is February 1st! The online application can be found at www.uchigh.com under Admissions.

NC Opportunity Scholarship

Have you heard about the exciting financial assistance available to families choosing the private school option through the broadened terms of the NC Opportunity Scholarship? Families who previously could not take advantage of the income-based scholarship may now qualify under the expanded eligibility for households making up to \$250,000. Visit Admissions at www.uchigh.com for a link as well as information about other scholarship opportunities.



Eastern Catawba
 Cooperative Christian Ministry
 Phone: 828-465-1702
 P.O. Box 31
 Newton, NC 28658
 eccom.org

Highlights

Thank you for your participation/support of our annual fall fundraiser, Share the Harvest! A wonderful time was had at Hart Square as our attendees learned more about our ministry to clients as we enjoyed dinner, dancing, raffish and more! Join us again next year!

Food Pantry

For November we will continue collecting kitchen staples such as flour, cornmeal, and sugar. In December we will be doing our annual Reverse Advent Calendar food box collection. The idea is, instead of receiving a gift, those taking part in a reverse calendar DONATE an item each day. Participate by grabbing a box, putting in a suggested item each day for 20 days, and then dropping your box off at ECCCM on the 20th of December. Printable calendar and additional information can be found on our website at eccom.org/advent/. Thank you for helping us keep our pantry stocked! To volunteer, please contact our Director of Volunteer Engagement, Allen Sherrill at a.sherrill@eccom.org, or by calling 828-465-1702, ext. 116.

Reverse Advent Calendar

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dec. 1 - box of cereal | Dec. 8 - canned beans | Dec. 14 - chicken noodle soup |
| Dec. 2 - peanut butter | Dec. 9 - mayonnaise (plastic jar) | Dec. 15 - canola or olive oil |
| Dec. 3 - mac and cheese | Dec. 10 - oatmeal | Dec. 16 - canned chicken |
| Dec. 4 - canned fruit in juices | Dec. 11 - pasta | Dec. 17 - pancake mix |
| Dec. 5 - canned tomatoes | Dec. 12 - spaghetti sauce (can or plastic jar) | Dec. 18 - canned vegetable |
| Dec. 6 - canned tuna | Dec. 13 - tomato soup | Dec. 19 - hearty canned soup |
| Dec. 7 - apple sauce (plastic jar) | | Dec. 20 - rice and/or boxed potatoes |

FILLED BOXES MAY BE BROUGHT TO ECCOM @ 245 EAST N STREET, NEWTON, NC 28658.
 NO GLASS PLEASE. THANK YOU!

Thrift Store

Current and upcoming sales are posted on our Facebook page, Thrift Threads and Treasures. All books are 25, and Senior Day is Fridays (15% off 60+.) Afternoon volunteers are needed; call or email Allen at the contact information above. Thanks for your support!

Upcoming Calendar:

November 23- Closed for Thanksgiving December 20- Turn in Advent Calendar Collection
 December 25- January 1- Closed for Christmas

ECCOM and Thrift Threads and Treasures are located at 245 East N Street, Newton, NC.



Reverse Advent Calendar

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
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| Dec. 2 - peanut butter | Dec. 14 - chicken noodle soup |
| Dec. 3 - mac and cheese | Dec. 15 - canola or olive oil |
| Dec. 4 - canned fruit in juices | Dec. 16 - canned chicken |
| Dec. 5 - canned tomatoes | Dec. 17 - pancake mix |
| Dec. 6 - canned tuna | Dec. 18 - canned vegetable |
| Dec. 7 - apple sauce (plastic jar) | Dec. 19 - hearty canned soup |
| Dec. 8 - canned beans | Dec. 20 - rice and/or boxed potatoes |
| Dec. 9 - mayonnaise (plastic jar) | |
| Dec. 10 - oatmeal | |
| Dec. 11 - pasta | |
| Dec. 12 - spaghetti sauce (can or plastic jar) | |

FILLED BOXES SHOULD BE DELIVERED BY DEC. 20TH TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE GIVEN TO A FAMILY IN NEED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. FILLED BOXES MAY BE BROUGHT TO ECCOM @ 245 EAST N STREET, NEWTON, NC 28658. THANK YOU!

For it is in giving, that we receive. ~ St. Francis of Assisi



Blood Drive **Concordia Lutheran Church**



USE THE QR CODE ON THE LEFT TO REGISTER!

Gym
215 5th Avenue SE
Conover, NC 28613
Wednesday, December 20th
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Concordia to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Make a Legendary Impact! Come give Dec. 18 thru Jan. 5 for NEW long-sleeved Red Cross Tee, ltd qty!



Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2023 The American National Red Cross | 432201-02 CW

[154] - Order ID: 1550302 - Item ID: 7503768 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 99231 - 2023APL0811 - ARCC - 236593

Sunday Extravaganza



Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:00am Worship

10:10am Mini Bus/Car Pool to:

Still waters Farm

4170 LB Propst Dr.

Conover, NC 28613

**Please join us as we clean, weed, trim and
decorate for “Christmas at the Farm”**

Rib-Eye Steak Supper



Concordia Lutheran Church - Lutheran Layman's League

Family Life Center – 215 5th Ave SE, Conover, NC 28613

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

4:30p-7:30p

\$20.00 Adults - \$15 Children

(15 and younger)

Includes: Rib-Eye Steak

Baked Potato

Salad Rolls

Homemade Desserts

Tea, Coffee, Water

Dine-In / Take-Out

828-464-3324 - Tickets available in the Church & School Offices




December 2023

Mite Challenge Calendar



FILLED WITH GOOD THINGS: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things (Psalm 107:8-9).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ It's a new month, praise the Lord! Donate 50¢	² Game day with family/friends. Donate 25¢
³ Advent begins. Start devotions. Donate 75¢	⁴ Decorate the Christmas tree. Donate 30¢	⁵ Make a new Christmas wreath. Donate 25¢	⁶ Learn the history of St. Nicholas. Donate 15¢	⁷ Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Donate 80¢	⁸ Read Matthew 1, the genealogy of Jesus. Donate 60¢	⁹ Send Christmas cards/letters. Donate 10¢
¹⁰ Sing your favorite Christmas carol. Donate 40¢	¹¹ Play Bingo at a nursing home. Donate 35¢	¹² Wrap Christmas presents. Donate 20¢	¹³ Hot cocoa party with a friend. Donate 55¢	¹⁴ Read the Christmas story to a school class. Donate 40¢	¹⁵ Pray for all church workers. Donate 70¢	¹⁶ Christmas cookie baking day! Donate 25¢
¹⁷ Reflect on Sunday's Bible readings. Donate 30¢	¹⁸ Predict the first snowfall or already happened. Donate 50¢	¹⁹ Make and share your favorite soup. Donate 45¢	²⁰ Pray for LWML leaders and committees. Donate 75¢	²¹ Winter Solstice. Sit by a lit Christmas tree. Donate 60¢	²² Offer to babysit for a church worker. Donate 20¢	²³ Pray for missionaries. Donate 55¢
²⁴ Christmas Eve, read Luke 2. Donate 80¢	²⁵ Christmas Day, give thanks for the birth of our Savior. Donate 95¢	²⁶ Boxing Day, learn about its history. Donate 10¢	²⁷ Facetime with family far away. Donate 40¢	²⁸ Exercise while listening to music. Donate 25¢	²⁹ Find a new LWML devotion. Donate 15¢	³⁰ Spend time with friends. Donate 35¢
³¹ Thank God for your 2023 blessings. Donate \$1						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>December</i> 2023</p>					1	2 4:30pm LLL Steak Supper
3 9a Worship & Grades 1-4 sing - FLC 9a Servant Extravaganza 10:10am Christian Education 11a Worship & Communion - Sanctuary 3p Christmas Caroling 4p Cub Scouts	4 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts Meet	5 10a Christian Book Club 3p CCDS Hangout 3:30pm Praise Group	6 7a Ladies Bible Study - A#1 11:30am Advent Worship 12p Advent Lunch 5:30pm Handbells 5:30p Advent Meal 6:30pm Advent Worship	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study 10:30am Ladies Advent Brunch 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 2p Pastor's Bible Study 6:30p 1-4 grade Lessons & Carols Service	8	9 9a Youth Board Bus to MLC Crossnore Christmas Party 1:30pm Pregnancy Care Center Baby Shower
10 9a Worship & Communion - FLC 10:10am Christian Education 11a Worship & Grades 5-8 Sing - Sanctuary 4p Cub Scouts	11 6:30pm Scouts Meet	12 8:30a Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 3p CCDS Hangout 3:30pm Praise Group 6p Assimilation - Library 6:30p Day School Board 6:30pm Elders - EM	13 7a Ladies Bible Study - A#1 8:10a Combined Chapel 11:30a Advent Worship 12p Advent Lunch (PrimeTimers) 5:30pm Handbells 5:30p Advent Meal 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:15pm Choir	14 6:30am Men's Bible Study 2p Pastor's Bible Study 6p Trustees 6:30pm 5-8 grade Choir & Concert Band Lessons & Carols Service 6:30pm Christian Education EM	15 5:45p Sr. Youth Lock-in	16
17 8a LLL 9a Worship & Communion - FLC 10:10am Christian Education 11a Worship & Communion - Sanctuary 12:15pm Youth Christmas Party 4p Cub Scouts 6:30pm Lessons & Carols	18 12p Newsletter Deadline 1:30pm Quilt Tacking	19 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 10a Christian Book Club 3p CCDS Hangout 6:30pm Stewardship - EM	20 7a Ladies Bible Study - A#1 11:30am Advent Worship 12p Advent Lunch - EM 1p Blood Drive in School Gym 5:30p Advent Meal 6:30p Advent Worship	21 6:30a Men's Bible Study 2p Pastor's Bible Study 4:15pm M & M - Library 5:30p Children's Program Dress Rehearsal & Dinner	22	23
24 10a Worship & Communion - FLC 4:30pm Children's Program 8p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Church Office Closed 10a Christmas Day Service	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study 2p Pastor's Bible Study	29	30
31 9a Worship & Communion - FLC 10:10am Christian Education 11a Worship & Communion - Sanctuary 4p Cub Scouts 5p Youth						

December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Chuck Stone	2-Dec
Pat Setzer	3-Dec
Ryen Reid	5-Dec
Alessia Palozzi	5-Dec
David Hafer	6-Dec
Dwight Brooks	6-Dec
Jonathan Nelson	7-Dec
Nancy Kelley	8-Dec
Buffy Smith	8-Dec
Steven Geml	8-Dec
Bob Malin	10-Dec
A.J. Baker	10-Dec
Shea Beringer	10-Dec
Priscilla Sigmon	11-Dec
Diana Long	11-Dec
Steve Hamm	12-Dec
Kristin Baker	12-Dec
Kyle McClure	12-Dec
Jeff Starnes	12-Dec
Ryan Rudisill	13-Dec
William Smith	13-Dec
Jennifer Montgomery	15-Dec
Kate McClure	15-Dec
Mary Herman	16-Dec
Mark Canrobert	17-Dec
Melissa Hayes	17-Dec
Matthew Hafer	17-Dec
Joel Quackenboss	17-Dec
Sandy Smith	19-Dec
Addie Jo Welch	19-Dec
Anderson Welch	19-Dec
Andy Matthews	20-Dec
Dwayne Welch	20-Dec
Randy Isenhower	22-Dec
Andrew Matthews	23-Dec

Zachary Perry	25-Dec
Pat Deal	26-Dec
Adam Campbell	27-Dec
Amanda Munday	27-Dec
Donald Oldenburg	27-Dec
Jeff Smith	27-Dec
Seth Quackenboss	28-Dec
Peggy Travis	29-Dec
Anna-Kathryn Hass	29-Dec
Shauna Kent	29-Dec
Bruce Roffey	31-Dec
Rick Bare	31-Dec



Conrad & Evelyn Yount	5-Dec
Harvey & Peggy Travis	14-Dec
Darrin & Joni Reid	15-Dec
Tom & Kate Cullen	18-Dec
David & Shelly Hayes	18-Dec
William & Janice Whitener	20-Dec
Clarence & Joyce Pugh	23-Dec
Tom & Beverly Considine	29-Dec
Jerome & Linda Bolick	31-Dec

If your name is missing from one of these lists, please let the church office know.

828.464.3324

sharman@concordianc.org