

# Concordia Newsletter

## February 2024



Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School  
216 5<sup>th</sup> 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

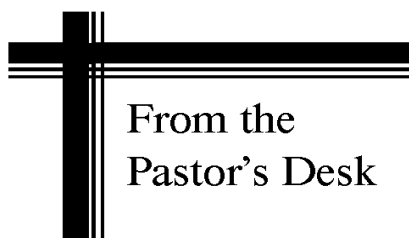
Church website: <https://www.concordianc.org>

Church office email: [sharman@concordianc.org](mailto:sharman@concordianc.org)

### **Worship Times**

Sunday 9:00a Contemporary

Sunday 11:00a Traditional



From the  
Pastor's Desk

### **"JESUS, NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE"**

*Jesus! Name of wondrous love,*

*Name all other names above.*

*Unto which must every knee,*

*Bow in deep humility.*

*LSB #900*

February brings several days of recognition. The month holds places for days both secular and the sacred. Super Bowl Sunday, Groundhog Day, Presidents Day. Combining both the secular and the sacred is the observance of Valentine's Day. This year the Day of love coincides with the day of repentance. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are both observed on February 14<sup>th</sup>. What does this mean for the religious/romantic among us? Should it be a day of candy, roses and romantic, candle light dinners? Or, should ashes on the forehead and Ash Wednesday Worship be the more appropriate way to observe the day?

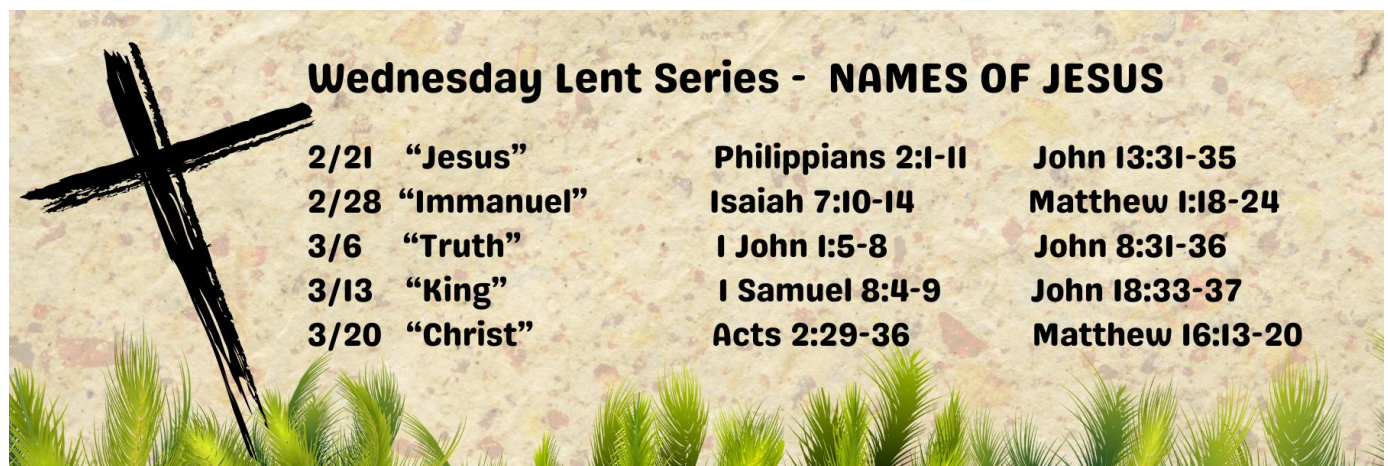
It need not be an either or proposition. The beginning of the season of Lent is the beginning of a season of repentance. But, the season it is not without its connection to the love of God. Ashes on the forehead reminds us of the sinful nature and the sinful acts of thought, word, and deed that need what only God can give. His love and the gift of forgiveness are given to us freely through the Son, Jesus Christ. The love of God

came to us is the Savior. He continues to come to us in Word and Sacrament. So, what better way to celebrate the day of love than being where the love of God is poured out on those whom He loves?

Jesus is the name of wondrous love. The Lenten Mid-week services will be focused on some of the other names of love that Christ Jesus brings. He is Immanuel, The Truth, The Light, The Alpha and Omega, He is King. These and all other names are names of love. God's love for sinners. Come and receive the blessings from the One who loves us so much that He gave His only beloved Son for us. Come and worship Jesus, name of wondrous love!

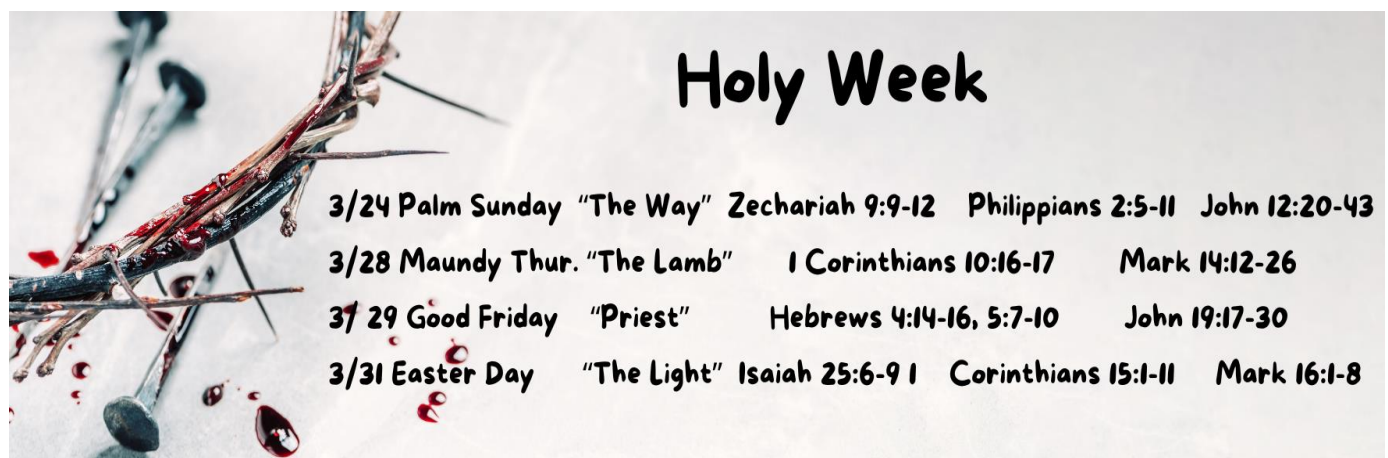
In the love of Christ Jesus,

Pastor Geml



### Wednesday Lent Series - NAMES OF JESUS

2/21 "Jesus"	Philippians 2:1-11	John 13:31-35
2/28 "Immanuel"	Isaiah 7:10-14	Matthew 1:18-24
3/6 "Truth"	I John 1:5-8	John 8:31-36
3/13 "King"	I Samuel 8:4-9	John 18:33-37
3/20 "Christ"	Acts 2:29-36	Matthew 16:13-20



### Holy Week

3/24 Palm Sunday "The Way"	Zechariah 9:9-12	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:20-43
3/28 Maundy Thur. "The Lamb"	I Corinthians 10:16-17	Mark 14:12-26	
3/29 Good Friday "Priest"	Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-10	John 19:17-30	
3/31 Easter Day "The Light"	Isaiah 25:6-9	I Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8

## ***Caring for My Neighbor***

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

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## **Bible Study**

*Now that the new year is into full swing, what Bible Study have you resolved to attend? A new year provides new opportunities to be in God’s Word and to draw you into a deeper and closer relationship with Him. Let the words of Jeremiah guide you: “Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” You, too, have been called by God. Where will He lead you? As you dive into a Bible Study, may it bring an indescribable joy and delight to your heart!*

## Announcement

### Regular Voters Assembly Meeting

Sunday February 18, 2024

#### Church Sanctuary after the 11:00 Worship Service

This meeting will be the Annual meeting for review and approval of the past years Financial Reports. Also, any item of business may be brought before the membership at this meeting.

Other business will be:

1. 2024 Parochial Report
2. Accepting any Board resignations.
3. Approval of new members and first time voters.
4. Presentation of Board and Staff reports.
5. Announcement of the Principal Search Committee
6. Announcement of the Constitution Review Committee

Please make every effort to be in attendance. We were unable to have a quorum of 50 members at our regular meeting in November, which is required to conduct any business by our Constitution. Thank you for consideration and time in attending this meeting.

President Jimmy Martin

Vice President Rick Bare

Secretary Dorcas Dunker



**Hospital/Out Patient:** Ervin Preston, Dave Beringer.

**Sympathy to:** The family of Ervin Preston

**Blessings to:** Dave & Chris Beringer upon the birth of a grandchild, Winter Eowyn Beringer; Bill & Kathy Unverfehrt upon the birth of a grandchild, Arthur James William Unverfehrt.

**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.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN YOUTH  
CONOVER, NC

# Youth Ministry Program Update



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN YOUTH  
CONOVER, NC

## Concordia Knocks It Out of the Park!

Concordia shared God's love with a Family in Need and we knocked it out of the park! You made a major difference in this family's life! The family was overwhelmed by the love that Concordia shared with them with the wrapped presents, the hundreds of dollars in gift cards for food, and a TV no longer used in the youth center. It is a family of six that is working hard to get ahead after experiencing some financial setbacks. They are renting a house and although they were unaware the gifts were coming, it was spotless. Our gifts helped them have some joy this Christmas and financially move forward. The youth were in charge and did a lot of the work, but it was the entire congregation that helped make this possible. Thank You!

On Sunday, January 21, we had the first meeting of youth who were interested in going to the National Youth Gathering in July of 2025 in New Orleans. We are starting to sign up the youth that are interested in going. These youths are making a commitment to meet regularly so they can grow as a team. They will also be having Bible Studies and fund raisers. We hope that many of our young people will decide to be a part of this life-changing event.

We had the rescheduled CCDS Middle School Hang-Out Christmas Party on Sunday, January 21, from 1-3 pm in Youth Central. We had a devotion, an awesome scavenger hunt, played Underground Church, hung-out, and ate.

The youth program has scheduled Sunday meetings, a ski trip, and going to Winter Jam in Greensboro in February. This program could not exist without the many people that volunteer to make it happen.

The Concordia Scout Program is busy with meetings, work on their merit badges, and camp outs (yes – even in the winter). On February 4 the scouts are being recognized for the many different merit badges they have earned. Some of the older scouts even completed a merit badge on welding. Both scout programs will be assisting in the February 4 worship services. The entire scout program has a desire to give back to Concordia Lutheran Church and we are thankful for the scouting leadership that makes this program a success.

You can see pictures of our youth in action on our Facebook Page at Concordia Lutheran Youth NC. To see all of the activities of our scout program – go to the Troop 383 Facebook Page.

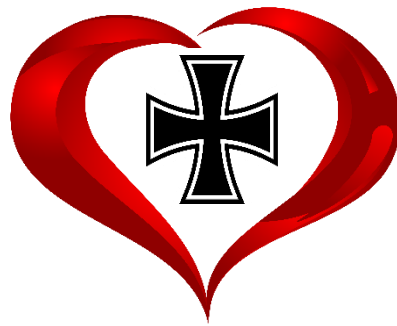
*Please pray for our youth as they navigate the challenges of today's world.*

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## FROM THE BOARD OF ASSIMILATION

The Board of Assimilation hosted a baked potato bar for the January 17<sup>th</sup> FISH meal. We would like to thank members in advance for attending the Third Annual Chili Cook-off, look for more details from that event in the March newsletter. Members have been busy planning the January 27 Chili Cook-off event, new member reception to be held on February 11, and the Concordia Heritage Tour planned for March 23. We hope to see you at these events for a time of socializing, welcoming new members and learning more about our church's history.

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## *Save the Date!*

### “Reflecting on God’s Love”

Please join your church family on Tuesday, February 13, from 5:30p-6:45p for a meal and devotional time. In preparation for the church season of Lent, we will be taking some time to reflect on God’s redemptive love revealed to us through the sending of His Son and our Savior. This opportunity for fellowship and reflection is for everyone. You are also welcome to bring a friend to join us. Babysitting will be provided. Plan now to attend this special time!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024

**TIME:** 5:30pm – Dinner (pasta/meatballs/salad)

6:15-6:45pm – Devotional

**WHERE:** Emmaus Room

**RSVP:** Church Office (828)464-3324





# 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.*



## **Did you know the story of our first church building?**

As we recalled recently, Concordia school and congregation emerged during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first church building was approximately on the site of the current school athletic playing field. Its early history was fraught with challenges and set-backs due to in-fighting, financial struggles, adverse weather, and changing pastoral leadership. After 16 years of worship in the auditorium of the school administration building, in 1894 the congregation set aside its often-acrimonious differences and established a plan. The actual work was done by hand – the hands of parishioners that is, who cut and hewed the lumber, and formed and baked the bricks. After such a long incubation and toilsome construction, Concordia folks read in the local news of their long-awaited home: “Its proportions are fine, making a better appearance than was expected.” Tepid praise? Concordia’s own description was warmer: “The Siamese twins of Concordia school and church had been gracefully separated, and although the two would continue to grow in the community...the Congregation finally had an identity and life of its own.” Overcoming such challenges as conventions, graduations, dinners, always-struggling quorums for voter’s assembly meetings, and state requirements regarding “sanitation” (outhouses), Concordia survived and grew.

The 1930s was a difficult period for Americans. Sadly, the school had to be postponed for a few years. Due to low voter turn-out at congregational meetings, business was often postponed. During Holy Week 1935, a massive fire broke out, utterly destroying the school. Could it get any worse?

Yes, when World War II broke out, 20 percent of the congregation went into service.

Then in the post-war years, growth recommenced, and the church and school were bursting at their fraying seams. Concordia may be down, but it’s never yet been out.

But, you may ask, what about our present building? That’s another story. Watch for your March newsletter.

Source: [Hope is Remembering With Praise](#), Concordia’s centennial history

**Dear Pastor Geml & Concordia  
Congregation,**

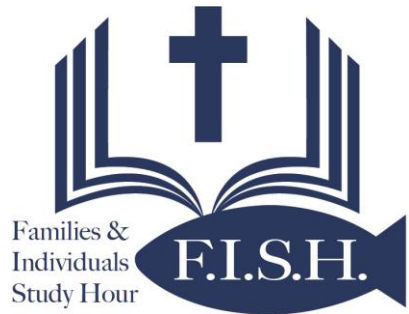
**Thank you all for the cards and  
prayers during the loss of our  
mom. She dearly loved the church.  
Her service was very special and  
we appreciate all those who made  
it such a beautiful memory in our  
grief.**

**Sincerely, The Vivian Jordan  
Knight Family.**





The Joyful Stitchers meet on the first and third Friday of each month the first and third Monday of each month. The meeting time for the Friday sessions is 2:30p and 5:30p for the Friday sessions. Please join us for fun and fellowship at one of the upcoming gatherings. You can come just for the fellowship, you don't need to be a stitcher! If you have questions call Dianne Lawing at 850-1460 or Susan Harman at the church office.



February 7 is the final session of FISH this winter. It's never too late to join us on a Wednesday night.

The meal for February will be Chicken & Wild Rice soup.



Prime Timers Lunch & Social will be held in the Emmaus Room at 11:30AM on February 13. Please make plans to attend for the 2024 election of officers and our Monthly planning of events.



## YOUTH: SAVE THE DATE!



Winter Jam has announced the artists that will be featured on the 2024 tour: Crowder, Lecrae, CAIN, Seventh Day Slumber & Katy Nichole.

Concordia youth will be joining St. Stephens youth to travel to Charlotte for this Christian music concert.

### GREENSBORO COLISEUM

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**Jam Nation Entry: 4:00 PM**

**General Admission Entry: 5:00 PM**

**Pre-Show: 5:00 PM**

**Show Starts: 6:00 PM**

## YOUTH: SAVE THE DATE!

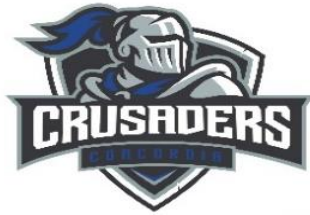


**Date: February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 8:30a**

**Where: CCDS parking lot**

**RSVP: Mr. Unverfehrt – 828.238.4239**



CONCORDIA  
Christian Day School  
A Tradition of *Excellence* in a Changing World

### **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.**

## **TICKET INFORMATION COMING SOON!**



## **2ND QUARTER ACADEMIC AWARDS**

**The Principal's List** includes students with straight A's on their report cards in 4th -8th grades. Congratulations to the following students who have made the PRINCIPAL'S LIST.

**4th Grade:** Lucas Brittain, Marla Donohue, Harrison Gilliam, Maxx Gilliam, Cashton McGahan, Clayton McGahan, Weston Spencer, Ashlee Stillwell, Colden Westby

**5th Grade:** Liam Hendershot, Alexandra Matthews, Adrienne Mullinax, Kahlan VanderMolen

**6th Grade:** Jude Beringer, Jonah Fox, Tiffany Liu, Jackson Sigmon, Analeigh Windsor

**7th Grade:** Keaton Webster

**8th Grade:** Christabelle Carter, Mason Hamrick, Lydia Walters

**The Honor Roll** List is for students with A's and B's with no unsatisfactory grades on their report cards in 4th -8th grades. Congratulations to the following students who have made the HONOR ROLL.

**4th Grade:** Ella Bentley, Mollie Boyles, Adrian Chavez, Mia Essary, Adyson Haugh, Emily Hensley, Ariella Jimenez, Skylyer Lookadoo, Ryleigh Sipe, Gemma Varelli

**5th Grade:** Madison Campbell, Isaac Crouch, Joshua Fallas, Levi Fredell, Jaxson Sharp, Leila Walker

**6th Grade:** Myla Cahill, Alexander Elmore, Sam Essary, Ella Fisher, Sydney Fletcher, Sophia Frugone

**7th Grade:** McKenzie Church, Lewis Griggs, Delilah Martinez, Katelyn Pennell, Jack Phillips

**8th Grade:** Robert Abernethy III, Curtis Burns, Alana Franklin, Max Hoffman, Mia McAbee

## BOYS VARSITY TEAM WINS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT



Over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Asheville hosted the Annual Lutheran Basketball Tournament, which includes schools as far East as the Raleigh/Cary area of North Carolina and as far West as Knoxville, Tennessee. Your Concordia Crusader Varsity Boys team didn't only participate in this tournament; they Dominated. The Crusaders went 4 and 0 on their way to being crowned tournament champions, with an average margin of victory of over 22 points per game. The Crusaders won the Championship game by a score of 49 – 30.

Eighth Grader and Team Captain Max Hoffman was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player as he averaged nearly 17 points per game despite sitting out most of the fourth quarter in each contest. Hoffman did more than just score; he played terrific team basketball and controlled

each game with his steady leadership and timely big plays.

The Crusaders, who entered the tournament as winners of their last two games, were without starting guard Moxon Miller, who was out due to injury. In Miller's absence, Luca Varelli, Brody Eckard, and Robert Abernethy all stepped up and contributed in big ways to help the team. All three players showed great intensity on defense and combined to average nearly 9 points per contest. Christian Dula and Jack Phillips both scored 8 points per game during the tournament. Phillips provided steady leadership and rebounding, while Dula provided reliable ball handling and several flashy assists during the electric run by the Crusader team to the championship. Andy Arango-Monson scored 11 points in the final game after being in foul trouble the first couple contests. Andy's presence inside on both ends of the court impacted the games in big ways as he blocked multiple shots and snatched rebound after rebound. On defense, he often found himself matched up against taller players but managed to out-duel each of his opponents. Arrongo-Monson averaged over 6 points per game for the tournament. In each victory, there were big plays made by Curtis Burns, Mason Hamrick, Max Miller, or Aiden Stone, with each guy scoring, blocking shots, or grabbing rebounds late in games, solidifying the team's victories.

## GIRLS VARSITY TEAM RUNNER UP

The Varsity Lady Crusader Basketball team is proud to announce they brought home the Women's Runner Up Trophy in this past weekend's tournament. Despite missing two starters, the Lady Saders were able to pull off two back-to-back wins on Saturday and win their way into the Championship game.

Coach Natalie and the Varsity players sincerely thank three JV players who stepped up quickly and effectively to round out the roster. Sydney Fletcher, Ella Fisher, and Adrienne Mullinax were instrumental in all four games, providing great consistency and flexibility in all three positions on the court. These three ladies are strong athletes and were greatly appreciated this weekend.

Mary Channing Hoffman led the four games in points and was unanimously named MVP. Madison Campbell and Kylie Edwards also put numerous points on the board and endured tremendous, full-court pressure with strength and fight. Cherish Freeman, Alana Franklin, and Joyren Lin were the strength and threat in the post all weekend. All nine ladies earned the second place finish and showed the competition Concordia's hustle, fight, and perseverance that made the Crusaders the "team to beat."



## SAVE THE DATE: CONCORDIA DINNER AUCTION

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 20, 2024**, for Concordia's Dinner Auction at Catawba Country Club. It's a fun event to attend and for a great cause! Tickets will be available for purchase soon. Sponsorships begin at \$250 and go up to \$5000. Please contact the school office for more information.

## Crusader Fencing Team Compete in Washington D.C.

Rose Long and Vasily Deffenbaugh competed in the largest fencing tournament on the East Coast recently. They joined 2000 other kids ages 8-14 in over 4000 individual bouts, with over 90 certified referees and a convention center floor covered in 65 competition floors.

As little fish in a big pond, Crusader fencers had to swim upstream at this level of competition. Rose had strong results, finishing one of three events in the top 50% and top 36 out of 140 competitors. Vasily finished strong on Monday, fencing in a group of 200 competitors. Vasily's final bout was against a top-rated fencer from Hong Kong. Although he lost, he did finish high enough to earn National Points to qualify for the National Championships in July this summer. Rose has also previously qualified to enter the National Championship events.



*News from...*

# UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

*Your Lutheran High School*

February 2024

## **UCHS Swim Team Wins Catawba County Championship!**

First time in UCHS history both boys and girls swim won the Catawba County Championship in the same year! Facing stiff competition from other area high schools, the boys won by an impressive 32 points and the girls edged out their opponents with a 20 point win! Morgan Ruebusch won both the 200 IM & 100 Fly, Max Kelty won both the 500 Free & 200 Free, & Noah Thompson won the 100 Fly. UCHS won the girls 200 Medley & 200 Free Relay and the boys 400 Free Relay! Other top-scoring swimmers were Elizabeth Pope, Ava Blair, Natalie Orlowski, Addie Duke, Jack Bartlett, Santiago Garcia-Ordenez, & Logan Reddick. It was a true team effort to pull off this impressive win!

## **Annual Fund Drive Progress**

The UCHS Annual Fund Drive is at 40% of our goal of \$125,000. Our Annual Fund provides critical annual operating support that allows us to go beyond what tuition affords and further invest in programs and priorities that create an exceptional educational experience. To donate, go to [www.uchigh.com/giving](http://www.uchigh.com/giving). Your generous contribution will have a significant impact.

## **Principal Colin Barrett Featured on WHKY**

Principal Barrett was interviewed on Jan. 18 by WHKY's First Talk with Hal Rowe! They discussed the expanded NC Opportunity Scholarship, UCHS history, and highlighted what makes UCHS unique and an excellent choice of high school! To listen to the interview, go to [whky.com](http://whky.com) for the First Talk recording.

## **Enrollment for 2024-2025 Still Open**

It is not too late to apply to UCHS! Go to [www.uchigh.com](http://www.uchigh.com) to apply online. Call us if you'd like to schedule a tour and see for yourself what UCHS has to offer. 828-855-2995





3775 Bethany Church Rd.  
Claremont NC

## Rising Hope Farms

# Volunteers Needed

RHF is a therapeutic riding center offering FREE therapeutic horse riding lessons to individuals with special needs. We have ZERO paid staff and rely entirely on volunteers like YOU!



## Volunteer Training

Sat. March 9, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Returning volunteers only
- Annually required, brief refresher class

Sat. March 16, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Anyone age 15+
- Side Walker Training
- ZERO horse knowledge or prior experience required!

Sat. March 23, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Anyone age 15+
- Side Walker Training
- ZERO horse knowledge or prior experience required!

Register for training here:



Scan me!

For More Info Visit

[www.risinghopefarms.com](http://www.risinghopefarms.com)

Gail Wartner  
Executive Director  
828-638-0879

Sandy Sherrill Volunteer  
Coordinator  
828-302-7240



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

## Highlights

### Food Pantry

Our pantry's item of the month is canned soup or broth, and coming up in February it will be macaroni, pasta, or canned spaghetti sauce. We are so thankful you help us keep our pantry stocked with these needed items! As always all donations are welcome; these are just monthly suggestions. **COMING UP IN MARCH...** Are you ready for some Madness? Our 6th annual March Madness Challenge will kick off on March 1st and run through April 10th. This challenge rallies businesses, churches, schools, and individuals to compete in donating food or funds under their favorite NCAA basketball team's banner, all while supporting a great cause! Learn more at [ecccm.org/mmc](http://ecccm.org/mmc), and get prepared for the madness! Want to volunteer? We have quite a few slots open on our church calendar rotation as well as a great need of individuals in the afternoons! Please contact our Director of Volunteer Engagement, Allen Sherrill at [a.sherrill@ecccm.org](mailto:a.sherrill@ecccm.org), or by calling (828) 446-5418.

### Thrift Store

We are looking for warm coats for our Resale Coat event. (We are particularly short on men's and children's.) When you give your gently used coats for us to sell in our thrift store, our clients are able to purchase them very affordably. (We do have many clients who will qualify for our clothing vouchers and will be able to receive a coat at no cost). We can also use any reusable type bags, gallon zipper bags, and medium and large recycled shopping bags. We are so grateful for your support of this outreach of our ministry! Afternoon volunteers are needed; call or email Allen at the contact information above.

### Upcoming Calendar:

January 15th - Closed in observance of MLK holiday.

ECCCM and Thrifty Threads and Treasures are located at  
245 East N Street, Newton, NC.

# Souper Bowl of Caring!

**The Board of Mission and Ministry will be putting out collection bins soon!**

Each year, **The Corner Table & ECCCM** participate in the national Souper Bowl of Caring project. The Souper Bowl of Caring aims to address all issues that may exist in our community, including poverty, homelessness, and hunger. This is where The Corner Table comes in. As a Receiving Charity, The Corner Table asks church youth in the community to collect donations from each member of their congregation in the weeks leading up to and on the Sunday of the Super Bowl. All of the money raised is sent directly to The Corner Table to benefit the hungry in Catawba County. With your help, we can feed those who are less fortunate. This campaign is now open to anyone participate whether your a church, school, business, or individual! Help us Tackle Hunger!!

## FOOD ITEMS WE NEED:

- Potted Meat and Vienna Sausages
- Crushed Tomatoes
- Canned Lima Beans
- Mayo
- Green Peas
- Canned Collards or Turnip Greens
- Fruit Cups, Apple Sauce, Pudding Cups
- Canned Chicken
- Gold Fish
- Tomato Sauce
- Fruit Snacks
- Poptarts
- Breakfast Bars and Granola Bars
- Ravioli
- Muffin Mix and Biscuit Mix
- Canned Soups and Ramen Noodles
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal and Grits





**catawba county**  
MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

**SOCIAL SERVICES**  
P.O. Box 669  
Newton, NC 28658-0669  
Phone: 828-695-5600  
[www.catawbacountync.gov/dss](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss)

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December 11, 2023

Concordia Lutheran Church  
216 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Conover, NC 28613

Dear Church Members:

The Adult Services Division of Social Services wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the many gifts you provided to our elderly and disabled clients. Your church did an outstanding job of furnishing requested gift items and returning them in a timely manner.

Special thanks to Carmen Isenhower for coordinating the sponsors and helping with the gifts. We gratefully appreciate your service to the community. Your church has truly grasped the giving spirit of the Christmas season and we thank you. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Fredia Denton  
Administrative Assistant 1  
Adult Services Division  
Catawba County DSS



January 1, 2024

Dear Camp Linn Haven Partner,

For the past 19 years, high schoolers from across the country have come to Camp Linn Haven in Linville, NC, for Teen Servant Week. During this week, these teenagers have completed various local mission projects that have included cleaning and painting at schools in surrounding counties, building houses for Habitat for Humanity, hosting Vacation Bible School for the children at Crossnore Residential Foster Care Facility, cleaning the homes of Hospice patients, and much more.

In 2018, we began to partner with the Backpack Program of Avery County Schools. Our first year with them, we packed about 30 book bags full of school supplies and hygiene products. Each year, we have watched the Lord grow this ministry so that we are able to share His love with more students and families of Avery County through the gift of school supplies. In July of 2023, through the generous donations of school supplies and the Lord's provision, we were able to pack about 680 bookbags. There are approximately 1,896 students in the Avery County school district and about 39% are enrolled in the Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

This year, we plan to pack 700 bookbags. In order to make this possible, we must collect school supplies and/or monetary donations throughout the year. We ask that you would prayerfully consider joining us in an effort to provide the much needed school supplies for these students and families and using this ministry as an opportunity to spread the love of Jesus Christ. If you would like to donate financially, please contact Teirsa Lane, Camp Director. If you are a member of Thrivent, you can use your Action Team card to purchase supplies. If you would like to donate school supplies, please go to <https://amzn.to/3OgEBTU> or scan the QR code below to see our Amazon wish list. On the following page, you will find a list of supplies if you do not wish to order online. We kindly ask that you would only choose from the supplies on the list provided. You may give the supplies to Teirsa Lane or to Katelyn Houser. Please be sure to give us a copy of your receipt so that we can keep a record of the total cost of this project. We are thankful for your prayers and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teirsa Lane | Camp Director  
(828) 320-2840  
[ktpc@charter.net](mailto:ktpc@charter.net)  
[katelynhouser05@gmail.com](mailto:katelynhouser05@gmail.com)

Katelyn Houser | Backpack Group Leader  
(828) 455-8533





**Supply List**

Wide ruled loose leaf paper  
Wide ruled composition notebooks  
1 Subject notebooks, wide ruled  
College ruled loose leaf paper  
College ruled composition notebooks,  
1 Subject notebooks, college ruled  
3 Subject notebooks, college ruled  
3x5 Index cards  
1 inch binders  
1.5 inch binders  
2 inch binders  
Packs of dividers with tabs  
2 pocket folders  
Pencil sharpeners  
8-10 count packs of wooden pencils  
10 count packs of mechanical pencils  
Pink (wedge) erasers  
12 count packs of CRAYOLA colored pencils  
10 count packs of CRAYOLA broad line markers  
10 count packs of CRAYOLA fine line markers  
Glue sticks  
Blunt tip scissors for kids  
Scissors for kids ages 8-12  
Chisel tip (skinny) highlighters

# Winter Resale

**WARM COATS  
NEEDED FOR  
RESALE AT OUR  
THRIFT STORE!**



**PROVIDING YOUR GENTLY  
USED COATS TO OUR THRIFT  
STORE ALLOWS THOSE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY TO PURCHASE  
COATS VERY AFFORDABLY.\*  
DROP DONATIONS BY ECCCM  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-4:30.  
THANK YOU!**

**\*ALL THRIFT STORE PROCEEDS ARE USED TO SERVE CLIENTS IN CRISIS.**



# FEBRUARY

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*Use this prayer guide for the month of February. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. What a joy it is to lift these needs to our Father's listening ears!*



1. For your LWML sisters.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
3. For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your church organist.
5. For those fighting cancer.
6. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
7. For the country of Botswana.
8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
9. For the needs of those on the mission field.
10. For the country of Brazil.
11. For those in the Armed Forces.
12. For the President of the United States.
13. For love in your heart for your neighbor.
14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.
15. For the country of Cambodia.
16. For the LWML Kansas District.
17. For those who are caregivers.
18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
19. For the country of Cameroon.
20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
23. For the country of Canada.
24. For the LWML Missouri District.
25. For your LWML district officers.
26. For the country of Chile.
27. For your LWML group members.
28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
29. For God's gift of another year of your life.

# February Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1-Feb Abe Ajazi
- 2-Feb Jerome Bolick
- 2-Feb Brian Roberts
- 3-Feb Matt Cecil
- 4-Feb Angelique Bost
- 5-Feb Linda Moretz
- 5-Feb Mary Elizabeth Carter
- 5-Feb Anthony DeHart
- 5-Feb Addison Hayes
- 5-Feb Carl Roth
- 6-Feb Horace Isenhower
- 7-Feb Brent Hayes
- 7-Feb James Campbell
- 8-Feb Etta Gardner
- 8-Feb Lamar Stewart
- 9-Feb Lisa Stone
- 10-Feb Fred Farmer
- 12-Feb Kenneth Elliott
- 13-Feb Lois Hintzmann
- 15-Feb Bobbi Robinson
- 16-Feb Angie Roffey
- 16-Feb Eugene Long
- 17-Feb Beth Spencer
- 17-Feb Natalie Raatz
- 17-Feb Chris Beringer
- 18-Feb Doris Kaylor
- 20-Feb Lindsey Elrod
- 21-Feb Jessica Montgomery
- 22-Feb Hayden Cecil
- 22-Feb Reid Cecil
- 23-Feb Brandon Elrod
- 23-Feb Liezel Artelt
- 23-Feb Meryt Artelt

- 24-Feb David Ajazi
- 26-Feb Joyce Spencer
- 26-Feb Emma Coffey
- 27-Feb Caleb Henze
- 27-Feb Corey Christians
- 28-Feb Debbie Da Rosa
- 28-Feb Sharon Knowles












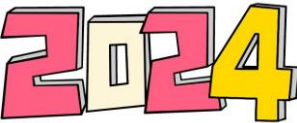




- 3-Feb Barry and Laura Perry
- 4-Feb Michael and Cornelia Allman
- 11-Feb Roger and Betty Heavner
- 12-Feb Opie and Lesa Williams
- 28-Feb Rick and Laura Miller

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

828.464.3324

sharman@concordianc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				6:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Pastor's Bible Study		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>9am Worship &amp; Communion - FLC - Scout Sunday</b> 10:10am Christian Education <b>11am Worship &amp; Communion - Scout Sunday</b>  3pm Creative Haven 4pm Cub Scouts 5pm Youth	10am Concordia Volunteers at ECCCM 1:30pm Quilt Tacking  6:30pm Scouts Meet	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 10am Christian Book Club 3pm CCDS Hangout time	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 5pm FISH 5:45pm Handbells 6pm Confirmation - A#1 7:15pm Choir	6:30am Men's Bible Study  <b>Bible Study</b> 2pm Pastor's Bible Study 6pm Trustees		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>9am Worship &amp; Communion - FLC</b> 10:10am Christian Education <b>11am Worship &amp; Communion - Sanctuary</b>  11am Cub Scouts Ski Beech - Joint Scouting Event for Piedmont Council	8:30am Youth go Skiing  6:30pm Scouts Meet	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 11:30am PrimeTimers - EM 3pm CCDS Hangout time 6pm Assimilation - Library 6:30pm Day School Board - CCDS Library 6:30pm Elders - EM	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM <b>11:30am Ash Wed. Service</b> 12pm Lent Meal 5:30pm Lent Meal 5:45pm Handbells <b>6:30pm Ash Wed. Service</b> 7:15pm Choir	6:30am Men's Bible Study  <b>Bible Study</b> 2pm Pastor's Bible Study 4:15pm Mission & Ministry - Library 6:30pm Board of Christian Education A#1	12pm Newsletter Deadline 	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am LLL <b>9am Worship &amp; Communion - FLC</b> 10:10am Christian Education <b>11am Worship &amp; Communion - Sanctuary</b>  12pm Voter's Assembly Meeting - Sanctuary 4pm Cub Scouts 5pm Youth	1:30pm Quilt Tacking  6:30pm Scouts Meet	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 10am Christian Book Club 3pm CCDS Hangout time 6:30pm Stewardship - EM	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM <b>11:30am Lent Service</b> 12pm Lent Meal 5:30pm Lent Meal 5:45pm Handbells <b>6:30pm Lent Service</b> 7:15pm Choir	6:30am Men's Bible Study  <b>Bible Study</b> 2pm Pastor's Bible Study		8:30am Scouting Advancement Day at Gaston College - Lincoln Campus 3pm Youth with St. Stephens go to Winter Jam Greensboro, NC
25	26	27	28	29		
<b>9am Worship - PS3, PK4, Kindergarten Sing</b> 10:10am Christian Education <b>11am Worship &amp; Communion - Sanctuary</b>  4pm Cub Scouts 5pm Youth	1pm LWML 6:30pm Scouts Meet	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 3pm CCDS Hangout time 6:30pm Church Council - EM	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM <b>11:30am Lent Service</b> 12pm Lent Meal 5:30pm Lent Meal 5:45pm Handbells <b>6:30pm Lent Service</b> 7:15pm Choir	6:30am Men's Bible Study  <b>Bible Study</b> 2pm Pastor's Bible Study		