Concordia Newsletter October 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

Worship Times

Sunday 9:00am Contemporary Sunday 11:00am Traditional

Church website: https://www.concordianc.org/home.php
Church office email: sharman@concordianc.org



TAKING A BREAK

Over the past few months, my articles have been focused on the Ten Commandments. I'm taking a break from that series to write about something that has been very important to me over the years in ministry. There is a very well-known passage from the 8th chapter of the Book of Romans. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." We say it. We know it. We don't live it! At least not as we should. When things in life don't go our way or when something happens that isn't in step with our designs and desires, all too often we set God's Word aside and forget His promise. The passage cited above does not say that all things are good. We know that sin corrupts all of our human endeavors. God's promise is to be held because we know by faith that in spite of our sin, our selfishness, our pettiness, there is first and foremost God's forgiveness that covers all sin. And that His good purposes will still be accomplished.

Most churches, scratch that, all churches experience trials and troubles. Churches that endure, thrive, and have a positive impact are those who not only know God's Word but those who trust that when God says something He means it and He intends for us His children to live it out in relationship to each other.

... God is still in control! Receive His love and forgiveness. Share that love and forgiveness. Trust His promise that will always work for our good.

Pastor Geml



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article – October 2023

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. It's all in the way that you use it.



LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Wednesdays - Oct. 4 through Oct. 25

5pm – Preschool – Kindergarten & Parenting Class 5:30-6:15pm – Meal

6:15 - 7:15pm Adult Bible Study

6:00pm Confirmation

6:00pm Youth

F.I.S.H. MEAL MENUS September 20 – October 25, 2023

DATE	BOARD/GROUP	MEAL DESCRIPTION	Contact
10/4/2022	Mission & Ministry	Sub sandwiches, Fruit Tray and Desserts	Carmen Isenhower cdisenhow@gmail.com
10/11/2022	Dianne Lawing & Renee Christie Bd. of Assimilation	Soup & Chili plus all the fix'ns Baked Potato Bar, Salad,	Dianne Lawing diannel@gmx.com Sandy Von Rentzell
		Desserts	Psnsvon@gmail.com
10/25/2022	Day School Board	Tacos possibly – Not yet confirmed.	Maggie Hamm mhamm@carolinafarmcredit.com



On Tuesday, October 10th, PrimeTimers will meet at The Golden Corral in Hickory at 1:00pm.

We want to thank Pastor Geml & Ruth for being our guest speakers at our September meeting.

The Board of Assimilation

The Board of Assimilation hosted fellowship time during the Rally Day event by providing snacks and drinks. We have been busy planning to assist and host future events which include FISH and Advent meals.



LWML Sunday is October 1st. They will be displaying all the quilts they have made since this time last year! The LWML will also have these items for sale: Rada Cutlery, Boxed Cards, and Home Flavorings. Bring your MITE BOX and join in the celebration of Lutheran Women in Mission.



Hospital/Out Patient: Ervin Preston, Ernest Herman, Ronald Kaylor, Mary Hartsoe, H. Y. Chi, Brooke Pope.

Blessings to: Caleb & Brianna Welch upon the birth and baptism of their daughter, Everleigh Joy Welch.

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



The newly formed Joyful Stitchers needlework group will begin their bi-monthly meetings in October at the Brian Long Center. There will be two groups meeting the first and third week of each month. The daytime group will meet on Friday afternoon beginning Friday October 6 from 2PM until 4 PM. The evening group will meet on Monday Nights beginning October 2 from 5:30 PM and until 7:30 PM.

This group is open to anyone that has a project they would like to work on during this time and experience fellowship with fellow church members. This is an informal group and is open to attendance at either time or even for a limited time during one of the sessions.

If you have questions, please contact Dianne Lawing at 828-850-1460 or Susan Harman in the church office.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

If you would like to subscribe to The Lutheran Witness, please let the church office know. Subscription price is \$20.50 for one year. If you would like to renew your subscription, please let the church office know before October 22, 2023.



Thanksgiving journals will be introduced at our October 1st gathering at 3pm in the church Education Wing. Everything you need to complete the journal will be available. If you would like to pick up a Thanksgiving card of your choice for a cover, you may do so. We do have cards available for you to use. (Click on Thanksgiving journals for a preview.) Refreshments will be served! Well behaved children are welcome.

Walk with Concordia to support two of our favorite charities! Register TODAY!



The Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley is having a "Walk for Life" on Saturday, October 21st. The walk begins at 9am. Use the QR Code to register

If you would like to donate to a team, drop your check in the offering plate and put either ECCCM or PCP in the memo section.



ECCCM's Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 15th at 3pm. To join Concordia's team, scan the QR code. Would you like to join them? You can also register the day of the race at 2pm. Awards are at 2:45pm.



Men's Fellowship will meet for Tailgating Games Competition on Thursday, October 19. We will meet at 6:00 pm and compete in Corn Hole, Ladder Ball, and Bouche Ball. We can order in some pizza or grill and watch NFL or College football. The NFL game is Jaguars vs Saints. Bring your own drink.

FYI - Pastor Geml has been practicing on Corn Hole and is feeling very confident.

RSVP to Bill U. at b.unverfehrt@gmail.com



Cub Master Nathan Huret has organized our Cub Scout Troop for success this year. He has been in touch with many of the Cub Scout families from last year and shared his passion for scouting. He is looking forward to growing our program. If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, Nathan can be contacted at plaidtiephoto@gmail.com. Cub scouts meet on Sundays at 4pm in the Cub Scout Room.

Last month our Boy Scout Troop led by
Matt Nolte, camped in Cashiers, NC at
Panthertown (Yosemite of the East). They
hiked in, set up their base camp and
prepared for the next day. They prepared all
their meals and left no trace. If you would
like to join our Boy Scout Troop, please get
in touch with Matt Nolte at
mattn@utilitysolutionsinc.com



Concordia Lutheran Church has an exciting and interesting history! In fact, we have a whole room called the History Room and it's devoted to preserving the rich heritage of the church and school where we come together to worship and learn today. The History Room is a trove of information that includes the founding and growth of Concordia over the years, information on people and events that were significant in contributing to that growth and many other interesting facts. The room is

maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers.

In early 2024, the Assimilation Board will host a Concordia Heritage Tour to share the history and facts around our beloved church and school. For example, did you know that there are two organs at Concordia? We have one in the chapel and one in the sanctuary! F.W. (Beck) Moelmann, father of Shirley Canrobert and organist at Concordia Lutheran Church for fifty years, installed both organs in the church. The sanctuary organ was moved from the old church to the present building and additional pipes were added. The second organ was in the home of Mr. Moehlmann and after the death of his wife, Polly, he gave it to the church to be used as the chapel organ.

We look forward to sharing more interesting facts in the months leading up to the tour!



Many youth that have participated in Teen Servant Week at Camp Linn Haven have volunteered at Crossnore School in Avery County. Adult leaders have worked with the maintenance team at Crossnore and youth have help in many other needed cleanup capacities over the years. Our youth want to share their experiences with the congregation.

If you know nothing about Crossnore Communities for Children, here is their mission: They create healthy futures for children and families by providing a Christian sanctuary of hope and healing. We meet our mission in these service areas: Foster Care & Adoptions, Family Preservation, Therapy Services, Youth Independent Living, and the Center for Trauma Resilient Communities. Foster Care is offered to children who are not able to live safely in their own homes and who are in the custody of the Department of Social Services. Children who come to live at Crossnore may live in a community-based foster home with a licensed foster family. Other children, especially those in sibling groups, may live in one of the 21 cottages spread across our Avery and Winston-Salem campuses.

More information coming soon. If you would like to read more information about Crossnore School go here: https://www.crossnore.org/ They also have an Amazon with list for their children and cottages. You can find it here: https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/search?name=crossnore This list is specific to what the children have wished for this Christmas.



Hey, everyone!

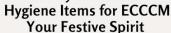
Mark your calendars now to attend Concordia's Fall Festival, which is being held on Sunday, October 29. This event is for all members and friends of Concordia - no matter what your age! There will be games and activities for everyone to participate in. We are also inviting all families of Concordia Christian Day School, as there is a huge mission field there waiting to be harvested into the church family. Included in our Fall Festival will be our annual Trunk or Treat for the children - complete with prizes for the best costumes and most festive decorated trunk. And, as always, the community will be invited to attend. We know that this is stepping out of tradition, but at the same time, this provides an opportunity for us all to gather together as church, school, and community to share with one another in Christian fellowship and fun. We will also be doing charity support for ECCCM by collecting donations of hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, comb, disposable razors, shave gel, bandages, hand sanitizer, nail clippers, etc). What a wonderful time to come together as brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate God's beautiful season of fall! We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note the following details:

WHAT: Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat WHEN: Sunday, October 29, 2023 TIME: 4:00 pm - 6:15pm SCHEDULE

4:00 pm-6:00 pm ~ Games/Activities/Trunk or Treat/Food/Fellowship 6:00-6:15 ~ Meet in church sanctuary for closing/Fall Blessing NEEDS

Candy Donations







The Parent Block

Spiritual Building Blocks for Parents Written by Kathy Unverfehrt



Scripture Verse

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. "

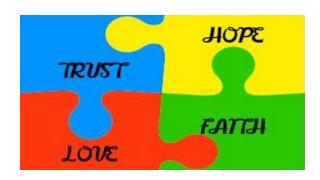
2 Corinthians 9:7

Reflection

Teaching children to have a giving heart can be a difficult task to achieve when living in a period of time that is surrounded by an "all about me" attitude. This me-oriented invasion into your children's lives is evidenced everywhere you look. You find it in TV shows, advertising and marketing strategies, and even in your child's friends whose parents do not share the same values as you. As a godly parent, you must combat these influences. Teach your child to have a giving heart. (Learning to share with others is a first step.) Model your cheerful giving through your church offering or giving to a charity that you are passionate about, making a meal for a sick neighbor, helping others in need, etc. Bake cookies with your children and take them to a family who is dealing with cancer. Have your children go through their toys and donate the ones they are no longer playing with (and are still in good condition) to a children's ward at a hospital or to a daycare center on a limited budget. God Himself is a giving God, so make it your joy to model a giving heart to your child. Guide your children in helping them to see that all they have is because of what God has given to them. Them instill in them a desire to give to others in thankfulness for all the blessings that God has so graciously given to

Parent Commitment

I will model a cheerful attitude of giving my time and talents to my church and community. I I will cheerfully help others around me who are in need. I will teach my children to give and share with a joyful spirit.



YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

We are organizing a team of volunteers that will continue to provide a comprehensive youth program for our church. We will continue to have a Sunday School Class and a weekly youth meeting as well as activities for service and fellowship. We are also working on increasing youth participation, being more involved with other youth programs, participating in district youth events, and creating a stronger connection between our youth program and the students in our school. We could still use some volunteers to be a substitute Sunday School teacher, provide refreshments, help with the weekly youth meetings or in other areas. Please call the school office or contact Bill Unverfehrt, who is leading this team of volunteers, if you can help in any way.bunverfehrt@gmail.com



YOUTH OCTOBER 2023 HAPPENINGS

CONFIRMATION WILL CONTINUE TO MEET ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6P - BOY SCOUT ROOM
YOUTH GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO MEET ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6P - YOUTH CENTRAL
COME TO SUPPER AT 5:30 IN THE EMMAUS ROOM THEN HEAD TO YOUTH CENTRAL

OCTOBER 8TH, 3P - YOUTH VISIT A CORN MAZE
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

OCTOBER 15TH, 2P - YOUTH WALK IN "THE HUNGER WALK" IN NEWTON
SIGN UP NOW AT HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/REGISTER/?RACEHD=114923

OCTOBER 22, 5-7P - OPEN GYM WITH ST STEPHEN'S YOUTH
MEET OTHERS THAT ATTENDED THE TEEN SERVANT WEEK AT CAMP LINN HAVEN. SUPPER WILL BE SERVED.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT SR. YOUTH GATHERING, NOVEMBER 3-5, AT WATERMARKS CAMP IN SCOTTSVILLE, VA





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.



October Mission Project

This month, our chapel offerings will be donated to the Highways and Hedges Thanksgiving Meal. Highways and Hedges is an all-volunteer Ministry. They depend upon the Lord to provide for their financial needs through Churches, individuals, civic organizations, and businesses.





Join the Concordia Christian Day School team! Wear your Concordia shirts, bring a friend, and enjoy the ice cream and inflatables at the end of the walk! Let's go, Crusaders!



PTO SPIRIT NIGHT

The Concordia PTO is having a Spirit Night on **Thursday, October 5**, from 11:00 am to 9:30 pm at Roc'n Oven Pizzeria in Conover. <u>Everyone</u> is invited to enjoy some delicious pizza, subs, and salad and support our school!



FALL SPORTS

Also happening on **Thursday, October 5**, Concordia Crusaders are hosting Davidson Day. The soccer match begins at 4:00 pm on our field. Admission is a freewill offering, so grab your camp chair and come cheer on the Crusaders! Girls Volleyball games are held in the gym, beginning with the JV team at 4:00 pm. The Varsity team plays at 4:45 pm.



CONCORDIA GOLF TOURNAMENT NOVEMBER 2

Concordia's Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, November 2, at Catawba Country Club. Please accept this invitation to continue helping our outstanding students excel in the classroom and as leaders. Would you be interested in supporting us by being a golfer or sponsor for the event? Sponsorships range from the Crusader sponsorship at \$5,000 to a Hole Sponsor at \$125. We offer a wide range of levels and as much marketing as possible in return for your support. Your Sponsor Fee would include your name on a master list as well as a personalized "hole sign." This is an opportunity to advertise with potential customers while helping support CCDS.

Thank you so much for helping Concordia Christian Day School achieve Educational Excellence!

Become a sponsor or register your team HERE. Please contact the school office with any questions at 828-464-3011.

https://forms.gle/pVYX2hL6Y8MLJJon7

News from...

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Your Lutheran High School

October 2023

October Open House Dates

8th-grade families are invited to attend our upcoming Open Houses on October 12th and October 17th. Come hear about the advantages of attending UCHS and details regarding the admissions process. Enjoy a guided tour of the campus led by UCHS Student Ambassadors. Please call the school at 828-855-2995 to register.

UCHS Admissions 2024-2025

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

Cross Country Off to a Strong Start

Congratulations to sophomore Madison Sledge on breaking the UCHS 5k record at a recent cross-country meet. Hours of training and dedication paid off as Madison finished third overall with a time of 21:28, breaking the UCHS girls' record by *over a minute*!

The UCHS cross country team finished strong in the first 2A Catawba Valley Athletic Conference meet of the year with the UCHS boys team placing 3rd place overall. Conner Frizzell & Carter Morgan, placing 1st & 3rd respectively in the top boys meet individual performers. Madison Sledge and Ellie Adams finished 2nd and 3rd overall. This foursome also placed in the top five at UCHS's first home meet with Conner Frizzell again securing 1st place.

UCHS Students at New ASU Hickory Campus

UCHS is excited to have thirteen students among the first to take seated classes at Appalachian State University's new Hickory Campus. This partnership with ASU further enhances our dual enrollment program and expands our college course offerings.

Seniors Earn Academic Honors from College Board

Congratulations to UCHS seniors, Douglas Fissinger & Jack Ryan Richardson, who were among high-achieving students nationwide who earned academic honors from the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program. This award recognizes the strong academic achievements of students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, are in the top 10% of PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10 assessment takers in each state for each program, or have earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP® Exams.



October 2023

Mite Challenge Calendar



SERVING THE SAINTS: For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do (Hebrews 6:10).

Saturday	7 Bring an LWML Fall Coloring Card to a homebound friend. Donate 60¢	14 Carve a pumpkin with a child. Donate 85¢	Rake leaves for a neighbor. Donate 50¢	Sing LSB #677 "For All the Saints." Donate 15¢	
Friday	6 Print an LWML Pastor Appreciation Card for Sunday. Donate 95¢	Donate food items to your local food pantry. Donate 30¢	Invite a friend to Bible study. Donate 85¢	Assist the church secretary with a task.	
Thursday	5 Take a walk in the crisp morning air. Donate 40¢	Read Romans 12:13. Donate 95¢	Recite the LWML Pledge. Donate 40¢	26 Print LWML Thanksgiving Note Cards. Donate 35¢	
Wednesday	4 Read Psalm 30:4. Donate 65¢	Print October's Mission Grant Story and post it at church. Donate 20¢	Share a hot cup of cider with a friend. Donate 65¢	Read about the LWML Mailbox craft. Donate 70¢	
Tuesday	3 Pray for LCMS missionaries. Donate 50¢	Sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness." Donate 55¢	Read LWML Bible study: Sharing Our Gifts as We Work for the Lord. Donate 80¢	Bake pumpkin cookies for a preschool. Donate 25¢	31 Reflect on the faith of saints who have gone before us. Donate 80¢
Monday	Read, I Love to Tell the Story — "God's Intentional Friendship." Donate 75¢	9 Indigenous People Day! Read about <u>Lutheran Indian</u> Ministries. Donate 90¢	Bake a pumpkin pie and share it with your family. Donate 35¢	Share with family how God's light shines through LWML. Donate 80¢	30 Read 2 Corinthians 9:12. Donate 25¢
Sunday	Gather supplies for the October Mission Service Activity. Donate 40¢	8 Go pumpkin picking. Donate 35¢	Pray for your church choir and music ministry! Donate 90¢	Volunteer to provide the church coffee hour goodies!	Sign up to be a Substitute Sunday school teacher.



V League Pledge − Responsive Reading

Explanation

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has an 80-year history. Part of that history is the League Pledge written in 1955 by the Rev. William Fricke, which reminds us of the essence of our reasons for being in mission and our pledge of commitment to our Lord. Every time we recite the League Pledge, we are recommitting ourselves to God's Mission Work. This is a commitment we make intentionally and with honor.

Leader: What is a pledge?

Group response: A pledge is a promise, a vow, an intent.

Leader: LWML women hold to a promise of service. Today, as we read our pledge together, let us look closely at why we are making the promise, what we are promising, and how we intend to carry out that promise in action.

Leader: Why do we make this pledge? The answer is in the pledge itself. Let's recite together:

Group recitation: "In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption" AND "in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields."

Leader: We are pledging in gratitude and in obedience to our risen Lord and Savior.

Leader: What do we promise?

League Pledge © 1955 LWML authored by Rev. Harry Fricke

Adapted from reading written by Myra Case, Missouri District 06-05-2020

League Pledge - Responsive Reading www.lwml.org Group recitation: "We dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have" and "we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us."

Leader: We are pledging to be fully engaged and serve willingly.

Leader: How do we show our commitment?

Group recitation: "What do we consecrate to our Savior?":

- our hands to work for Him,
- our feet to go on His errands,
- our voice to sing His praises,
- our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,
- our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom,
- our will to do His will.
- and every power of our life.

Leader: By the power of the Spirit, we are pledging our whole selves; body, heart and mind. Consecrate means to devote or dedicate to some purpose. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we consecrate our whole selves to the spreading of His Gospel message through Bible study, service, and supporting LWML Mission Grants.

Group recitation: Our goal: "the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him."

Leader: Note the words "we" and "our" used in this pledge. We don't make this commitment alone. We make it with our sisters and brothers in Christ. Together, a mighty blessed collection of His creation. And not only are we making this pledge to God, we are also making it to one another. Promising to work in partnership and harmony as women who Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Leader: And together we say:

Group recitation: "Amen." Lord, let it be for us. Amen.

Adapted from reading written by Myra Case, Missouri District 06-05-2020 League Pledge - Responsive Reading www.lwml.org 612 S. College Ave Newton, NC 28658



Pastor Chuck Bryant 828-461-8530 pastorchuckbryant@yahoo.com

Sunday Service 10:30 am Everyone Welcome...Come As You Are

September 12, 2023

New Vision Community Church and Highways and Hedges Ministry are requesting donations for the

FREE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MEAL scheduled on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th from 11 am until 6:00 pm at New Vision Community Church 612 S. College Ave, Newton, NC

Free coats and scarves will be available.

This is a huge undertaking...1800 plates were served last year...and we need your help to make it possible.

We appreciate any assistance you can give to this effort.

Monetary donations can be mailed to church address.

Contribution receipts will be provided.

Volunteers needed (2 hour minimum commitment)

To schedule volunteers, please call or text...

if no answer, please leave message

Betty Easter 828-234-9399