

Concordia Newsletter

August 2024



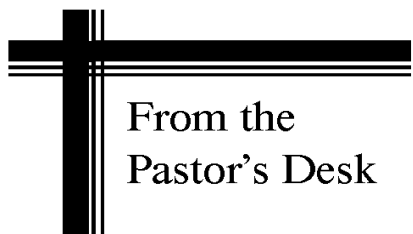
Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School
216 5th Ave SE. Conover, NC 28613
Church 828.464.3324 | School 828.464.3011
Rev. Michael Geml, Sr. Pastor 828.464.3324 x303 | C 517.395.8422
Mr. David Beringer, Principal 828.464.3301 x202

Church website: <https://www.concordianc.org>
Church office email: sharman@concordianc.org

Worship Times

Sunday 9:00a Contemporary
Sunday 11:00a Traditional

Both services worship in the
sanctuary.



From the
Pastor's Desk

AGREE TO DISAGREE

Churches love to use the word, "family," to describe themselves. "Family," is a term that is more applicable to the church than we might have considered. We tend to use the word when describing times of togetherness and love. Times when shared experiences remind us of our mutual love for God and love for each other. Whether we like to admit it or not, families don't always agree. Being raised in a fairly large family, I have many wonderful memories of birthday celebrations, holidays, backyard BBQ's. But when eleven people live under one roof, one could easily imagine there were times of heated disagreement, hurt feelings and the occasional slamming of a door.

Disagreements were inevitable but they never ended in someone leaving the family. I know that in some families there are those who feel they have to walk away. Sometimes it is for their own safety. That is sad and that is not how God designed it. If eleven people living under one roof will have the occasional spat, we can expect the same for God's people who worship under one roof.

In a fascinating, enlightening book titled, *Blessed Are The Misfits*, author Brant Hansen lists seven reasons he needs Christian community. In a world where people leave their church home for any number of reasons, Brant Hansen's #7 reason for his need of Christian community is, "I need people not to break up with." If in your heart you have said of your church, "these people are my family," should leaving your family be such an easy proposition? Certainly, there are exceptional circumstances where someone may feel they cannot stay. However, shouldn't the family of God seek first what Holy Scripture says? Author Hansen cites that there are

by some counts, 59 times the Bible uses the two words, “one another.” *Love one another. Serve one another. Look out for the needs of one another. Confess your sins to one another. Forgive one another!!!(Emphasis added).*

In the Church, we are bound together by the forgiveness we have received in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Paul encourages all believers to, “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:1, 3). Continuing and growing together in that unity we have in Christ Jesus; we are a family who can love and serve each other, and we can have a positive impact on the world around us. In other words, if they see Jesus living in us here, they may see Him face to face for all eternity.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Pastor Geml



FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS AND PASTOR GEML:

Our history as a Christian Church has always pointed to God's means of grace given freely and generously in the Water and Word of Holy Baptism and the Body and Blood of Jesus received in the Holy Supper. In these blessed Sacraments we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

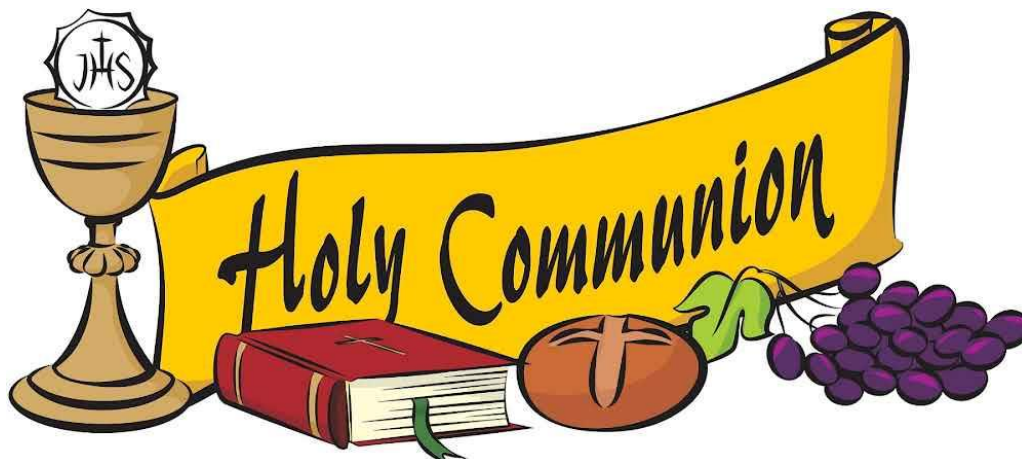
The earliest practice of the Church was to commune young children when they had reached a level of understanding concerning Baptism and the Lord's Supper as well as a general understanding of the faith as communicated to us in the Bible. Unfortunately, this practice fell out of favor. Sadly, one of the results has been young people leaving the Church in disturbing numbers. Often they gravitate to Churches who do not acknowledge or celebrate the means of God's grace.

Young children who attend Concordia Lutheran Church are hearing about the blessings of Baptism and the Lord's Supper every Sunday. They are seeing that blessing of the Lord's Supper received by others every Lord's Day. Some of these children already have a general understanding and a desire to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. Connecting our young children to the Church is vital to our task of passing on, "The faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

Along with the approval and direction of the Board of Elders, I am excited to announce an opportunity for parents to, "Train up their child in the way they should go... (Proverbs 22:6). Parents with children who are 10 years old and older will have the opportunity to learn about the blessings of receiving the Lord's Supper. After attending an instructional session with the Pastor, parents can decide if their child is ready to receive the Sacrament of the Altar.

Parents and children must attend only one of the two scheduled sessions. The dates for the sessions are Sunday, September 22nd or Sunday, September 29th at 2pm in the Emmaus Room. Please contact me or the Church office to register for this wonderful opportunity. May God bless and direct us in this time of learning and growing in faith.

Pastor Geml



Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers and support during our family's time of transition. We were and continue to be blessed by so many of you who offered kind words of support and prayers as we follow God's leading on this new journey at the Seminary. Lamar is half way through his Summer Greek courses and the entire family is enjoying the community that the

Seminary has to offer. Many of you asked for our new address at our last service, this is provided below:

Stewart Family's New Address:
1537 Paradise Valley Dr
High Ridge, MO 63049

We look forward to visiting as soon as we can and pray that God continues to bless you and the Concordia family. God's blessings to all, The Stewart Family



Camp Bud Schiele was an outstanding success.

A few of the highlights:

- 13 Scouts attended camp and earned or received partial credit towards 53 merit badges.
- Connor, Andy, Santiago, and Curtis were selected to join the Order of the Arrow (OA), the national honor society of scouts.
- Isaac won the Top Shot award for .22 rifle
- Connor took 2nd Place in the Camp Chess Tournament
- The Troop won the First-Aid Skill Challenge (kudos to Dr. Lopina for teaching the First-Aid Merit Badge to the boys over the last five years)
- The Troop took Second Place in the Tree Identification Contest
- The Troop has more work to do regarding knot tying.... we did not score very well in the knot-tying competition
- Santiago's dutch oven cobbler did not place in the scoutmaster challenge - proving the judges did not have taste buds that function correctly.
- The boys hand-cranked 6 quarts of homemade ice cream. That was the closest the boys came to air conditioning all week.
- Other than a case of poison ivy, none of the boys required medical attention.

The boys exhibited a positive attitude in the face of heat, humidity, storms, and difficult neighboring Scout Troops. The boys represented Conover, Concordia Lutheran Church, their families, and themselves in an exemplary manner.

As always a special thanks to Kyle Smith for everything he did to ensure the boys were challenged yet still had fun during the week. He spent more time planning and preparing everything for the pioneering signal tower than he will ever admit.

Photos were posted on the BSA Troop 383 and Concordia Lutheran Church's Facebook pages.



Youth Ministry Program Update



Grades 6-12 Youth and Friends – LOCK-IN

WHEN: Friday, August 16,

MEET: 9:15p at CCDS (Board bus at 9:30p)

TIME: 10p-6a Lock-in at Bo's in Lenoir.

RETURN: CCDS 6:30a, Saturday, August 17

COST: \$10 – Includes: Unlimited laser tag, bowling, mini golf (until 1 am), select arcade games and 2 slices of pizza and lemonade per person. The cafeteria will be open for our youth to purchase additional food if desired. **Parents and other youth leaders are welcome to join us.**



Grades 7-12: Sunday, August 25 we will have our **first official youth meeting of the year**. This will be in Youth Central at 5:00 pm. We will have a devotional topic and then youth input on possible events for the upcoming school year. We hope to elect a youth board that will be responsible for planning and implementing youth activities. We will have some fun activities that night and supper will be served.

Grades 8-12: The National Youth Gathering is in New Orleans in July of 2025 and is open to all youth (and their friends) who are presently in grades 8-12. This is a life changing event for many high school youth and I encourage everyone to attend.

There will be an informational/organizational meeting on **Sunday, September 22 at**

5:00 pm in Youth Central. This is for parents and youth. Come and find out what it is all about. Don't procrastinate because our deadline for registration is the end of October. We will serve pizza and drinks.



Camp Linn Haven Teen Servant Week

Concordia was blessed to have the following youth and youth leaders participate in Camp Linn Haven's Teen Servant week July 21-27, 2024. These youth worked hard to help people in the community in whatever way

that they needed. **The adult leaders were: Dottie DeHart and Doug Brady. The youth that attended are: Noah Hedrick, Chloe Brown, Noah Brown, Max Hoffman, Sam Hoffman, Maggie White, Jacob Moore, John Moore, Abigail Tabor, Ella Smith, Sophie Hayes, Andy Monson, Braxton Eckard, Wade Cecil, Ella Cecil, Ben Ellwanger, Ethan McKay, Abby DeHart, and Katie Grace DeHart. Keep this group in your prayers as they travel and work all over Avery County!**

Each day, Katie Grace DeHart is writing an article of what it means to serve at Teen Servant Week. Her beginning:

THE CAMP CHRONICLE

Day One (Monday, July 22, 2024)

My name is Katie Grace DeHart and I'm from Concordia Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. I am a longtime camper...

And ends with: "Our God is mighty to save. We must never forget that! Katie Grace DeHart"



Hospital/Out Patient: Denise Gilbert, Steve Bost, Debbie da Rosa, Dwight Brooks, Eugene Long

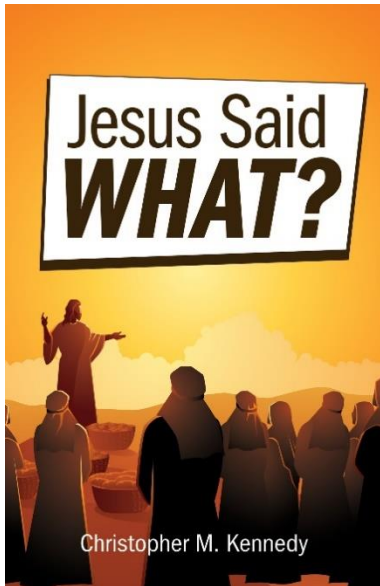
Sympathy to: David Isenhowe and family up on the death of his son, Brian; Betsy Murray and family upon the death of her nephew, Dalton.

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.

As a result of the June election, here is a list of Elder assignments by last name for 2024-2025.

(REVISED)

Elder	Care Zone Minister	Zone #	Member Names
Steve Bost		1	A-BL
Doug Brady	Ryan & Holly Rudisill	2	Bo-Bz
Mike Spake	Opal Bolick	3	C
Steve Dunker		4	D-E
Fred Farmer	Pamela Farmer	5	F-G-I
Harvey Travis	Clarence & Joyce Pugh	6	H
Roy Sigmon	Cindy Sigmon	7	J-K-L
	Pat Welch	8	M
Alex Opper	Linda Moretz	9	N-O-P-Q-R
Allen Sigmon	Leslie Brown	10	S- So
Dale Spencer		11	Sp- V
Paul Hale		12	W-X-Y-Z



Concordia Book Club – 2024 Fall/Winter Book Study

Jesus Said WHAT? – Christopher M. Kennedy

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. – Library

Session one September 3 / Ends April 15

This book is based on a survey of his congregation taken by Mr. Kennedy about some of the most troubling things Jesus said. Christ's words may not always be what we *want* to hear, but they are always what we *need* to hear.

Join us as we delve into some of His “red letter” statements and the truths contained in them. It should be a lively discussion!

(Four books available from Martha Staley, 828-244-5577)



On Saturday August 3rd, the “We Are One In Christ” will be held at the American Legion Fairgrounds in Newton. Concordia’s goal of 8,000 pencils and 1,200 glue sticks was met!! Thank you for your donations of pencils, glue sticks and gift cards. On August 3rd, we will be handing out cupcakes for the cake walk and we will have a face painting booth set up. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help. These mission events would certainly not be possible without your help and generous support. Thank you for helping to make this event a success! Board of Mission & Ministry

"Did you know?"

Board of Assimilation continues providing reminders of Concordia's history. Watch for short pieces to appear in newsletter or bulletin highlights and posted in various church locations.

Were you glad when they said unto you, “Come into the house of the Lord?” Is this church your happy place? Do you experience your weight of care abate when you enter Concordia's beautiful worship places? Do you get a sense of Christian fellowship when people bunch in the aisles after worship, or from the clatter of dishes being washed in the Emmaus Room kitchen?

Let us intentionally consider Concordia's church building in order more fully to appreciate its role in our worship and activities. Watch for a series of short paragraphs about various aspects of our church building, and ponder their significance in our worship life.



The Parent Block

Spiritual Building Blocks for Parents

Written by Kathy Unverfehrt



Scripture Verse

**“Hold on to wisdom and it will take care of you.
Love it and it will keep you safe.”**

Proverbs 4:6

Reflection

Everyone faces difficulty when making decisions. They are not always easy to make as you weigh the pros and cons of what the end result could be. Godly decisions are even more difficult, as it may contradict the outcome of your earthly desires. As we make decisions regarding our children, our heart can be in conflict over what we know to be in their best interest and what other parents are allowing their children to do. You may find your heart weakening and giving in to the more popular decision of granting your child what he wants, even if it is not what is best for him in his spiritual development. Seeking and trusting God’s wisdom will provide a solid foundation when making decisions in regards to living your own life, as well as the lives of your children. Children can learn at a very young age how to develop skills that reflect what God desires in their decision making. Parents who have learned how to implement godly wisdom in their own lives will find greater success in teaching their children about making wise decisions. As children see their parents living out their wise choices, they will be better equipped in making decisions that reflect a positive and godly faith and implement those skills necessary in their own lives. Remember that good decisions can lead you on a path of success and fulfillment, while poor decisions may send you into despair and a downward spiral. Both can equally impact you in your decision making process. However, holding on to wisdom, loving it, and living by it, can help you to lead a joyful and fulfilling life. The same is true for your children when they trust God’s wisdom.

Parent Commitment

*I will trust God’s wisdom rather than my own earthly desires.
I will model God’s Word and wisdom when making decisions in regards to my children.*



Parent Post

Jesus saved all people by His death and resurrection. As a result, Christians strive to follow the example of Jesus in their words and actions. They want to show forth the fruit of the Spirit in their lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

Drawing on the gifts given by the Holy Spirit, Christian parents set a positive example for their children. That positive example displayed in parents and mimicked in children is one way Jesus Christ demonstrated His gift of salvation for us all. Imagine the great joy your heart will feel if you heard your children say to you, "Through you, I have seen Jesus!"

Stretch your faith-filled parenting:

Tell your children about a person who has been an inspiring example of God's love in your life. Explain how this person has had a positive influence upon you.

Prayer:

Perfect Redeemer, I praise You for those You have given as mentors and examples of Your love in my life. Help me to be a faith-filled example for my child. Through the Holy Spirit, lead my dear child to see You as Redeemer and Friend.

In Your saving name I pray. Amen.

(LWML Mustard Seed: Faith-Filled Parenting)

Mealtime Prayer for Young Children

*Dear Jesus, now I bow my head
before I eat this daily bread.
To You, O Lord, my thanks I say
for food and drink another day. Amen.*

Riddles for Young Ones

Riddles are fun guessing games for children. Share these riddles with your children and talk about how God made all the animals and us, too!

**I am big and brown. I eat grass, yes, I do!
I give you milk and I say, "Moo!"
What am I?**

*God made me! I have four hooves. I like to run.
I shake my mane just for fun.
What am I?*

**God made me!
I like to cluck and sit on a nest.
When my eggs come out, I give you my best.
What am I?**

5 Ways to Encourage Spiritual Growth in Your Child

As a Christian parent it is important to instill solid character-building and faith-growing practices in the daily habits of your children. Children enter this world with a tremendous capacity for faith. The best way to teach them faith skills is to practice them in your own lives and help to be their guide.

By teaching them to practice these activities, you can help them grow closer to the Lord every day!

1. Pray Together

Allow your children to hear you talk about God and pray daily. Pray for requests together as a family and discuss how God has answered previous prayers.

2. Show Your Gratitude

Help your children grow spiritually by making them aware that everything they have is from God. A heart of gratitude will help you see issues in your life more like opportunities - opportunities to boast in what God has done for you and what He has blessed you with.

3. Serve Together

One of the best and most fun ways to grow spiritually is serving. At young ages children can make gifts and cards or visit others as thoughtful gestures of love and care. As they grow older, they can serve and help more in the community by serving at soup kitchens, local food banks and shelters. As a family, you can teach your children to have compassion for others and serve those in need.

4. Learn Together

Your children may have lots of questions about the Bible and their faith. By answering their questions, you will hopefully gain a clearer understanding of what you believe and why. Remember, when there seems to be no answer, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," and then discover the answer together.

5. Be an Example

The most important thing you can do for your child is to be a living example of who you want them to become. Show them kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and apologize when you are wrong. Tell your child what you believe about God. The Christian parent is the child's greatest role model!



Prime Timers will be hosting Carl Roth at our August Social/Meeting with a Pot Luck Lunch at 11:30AM on August 13th. You are invited to have lunch with us and enjoy Carl's presentation on Cyber Security.

Take a look at the new logo for Creative Haven! Wherever you see this, know that you will learn Faith Practices in a visual way! This is NOT a crafting class. It is a time for us to gather and learn ways to spend more time in the Word of God.

Visual resources are kept in Adult Room #2. Help yourself to decorative papers, cards and bookmarks and many other resources this summer.

Faith Building is taking a break for the Summer. Susan Harman, the leader, is traveling in August and September. We will start meeting once a month on the first Sunday of each month in October from 3p-5p in Adult Room #2.



FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Come FISH with us - Join us for Dinner and "The Chosen"

We invite all CCDS parents and Concordia Church members to join us on Wednesday nights for dinner and viewing an episode of "The Chosen". This dinner and a movie night will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 4 and continue for 8 weeks (1 season), ending on October 23. Season 2 is scheduled to be shown after Christmas. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm in the Emmaus Room with one episode of the movie showing in the sanctuary at 6:15pm. There will be a brief discussion of the movie right after it finishes with everything being done by 7:30 pm.

This movie is for youth grade 4 and older and adults of all ages. We are also offering a 2 yr. old - Kindergarten class and a Gr. 1-3 class with activities and a lesson at 6:15 pm while the movie is showing.

For us to adequately plan for the dinner, please respond by contacting the school office (828-464-3011), the church office (828-464-3324) or by using the QR code. We pray that everyone will come to reflect on the life of Jesus as we gather as people of God.

FROM THE BOARD OF MISSION & MINISTRY:

We met at St. John's on Sunday July 28th at 3:00 to fill 1,200 back packs for the "We are one In Christ" event which will be held at the Fair Grounds in Newton on Saturday August 3rd. Twelve churches in our area have collaborated on this event. Concordia's goal of 8,000 pencils and 1,200 glue sticks was met!! Thank you Concordia for helping to make this possible. Thanks also for the gift cards that will be used as prizes for the different games that the children will participate in. (Continued on next page.)

We will be handing out cupcakes for the cake walk and we will have a face painting booth set up. If you want to help man either of these booths, let the church office know. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help. These mission events would certainly not be possible without your help and generous support.

The M & M Board has several other projects throughout the year that we will keep the congregation informed on and will be needing volunteers to help with: More information will be made available as the time gets closer.

- Parade of Canned Food Drive for the Corner Table during the month of August (see flier on page 20)
- Pregnancy Care Center Walk for Life on Saturday 28th.
- The Hunger Walk benefiting Ashure Ministries and The Corner Table October 13th.
- Fall Festival in October
- Missions trips for adults – young and old. Send us your ideas.

Mission events for younger children (Ideas are greatly appreciated!!)



The Board of Christian Education at Concordia Lutheran Church is hosting a “Back to School Bash” and we want you to be a part of it! Please bring a donation of any of the following school supplies: pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors, and glue sticks, spiral notebooks, ruled notebook paper, etc. to help financially struggling families. Monetary donations can be dropped in the offering plate marked for “Back to School Bash.” We are supporting Shuford Elementary and Newton Conover Middle School provide for their students of need as they start off a new school year. Please place supplies in the baskets labeled, “Back-to-School Bash,” which can be found in the church narthex and the church transept area. Have your children bring their backpacks with them. We will be doing a blessing of the students’ backpacks as they begin a new school year. After worship, we will have inflatables, crafts, and other activities for the children to enjoy. A light lunch will be provided. This event is for our entire Concordia family and friends as we kick off the start of another school year celebrating our children. Join us!!!

WHEN: Sunday, August 18, 2024

TIME: 11:00–Worship, dedication and blessing of ALL teachers and staff and blessing of students’ backpacks

WHERE: Concordia Lutheran Church

After Worship: Lunch, Fun, and Fellowship from Noon–1:30p in Concordia’s Family Life Center

If you are unable to attend the bash, you can still make a difference in the lives of these young children in our community as they begin a new school year. If you would like to help and find it easier to write a check, please make it out to Concordia Lutheran Church and earmark it, “Back-to-School Bash.” Thank you for helping students in our community!

**“And the King will answer them,
‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers (and sisters),
you did it to Me.’”** Matthew 25:40



What is Rally Day?

Rally Day is often celebrated in churches at the start of a new school year. Our Sunday School Children will “Move up” to their new classes on this day.

Webster’s Dictionary defines “rally” as:

1. A verb: “to draw or call together for a common purpose”
2. A noun: meaning “a renewal of energy in joint action”

Rally Day originated at the turn of the last century and traditionally was held on the last Sunday of September. It was a time of ice cream socials, strong vigorous music, and processions of all Sunday School students from the youngest to the oldest. It was a time of spiritual rallying together. Although Rally Day may look somewhat different today. It continues to be a time of “drawing together for a common purpose” in seeking the Holy Spirit’s power to “renew our energy” for worship, for digging into God’s Word, for praying, for serving, and for witnessing.

It is important to know that Rally Day is not just for children. It is for adults, as well. It is a time for us to recommit ourselves to a Bible Study, or perhaps to even lead one. At this time of year, we need a “renewal of energy” when it comes to our spiritual life. That’s why the church sets aside one special day a year for all members, of ALL ages, to rally together for the common purpose. It is a time of renewing our trust in God, obedience to studying His Word, to grow in biblical truth and knowledge, and to deepen our relationship with Him. Rally Day is a day of deep spiritual significance as we commit our faithfulness to God and His Word. May you find yourself in prayer over what Bible Study you will attend.

Plan now to join your Concordia family as we rally together in the celebration of our faith!

WHAT: Rally Day

WHEN: Sunday, August 25, 2024

WHERE: Church Patio/Narthex (depending on weather)

SCHEDULE: 10:10 – Food, Fellowship, & Sign-Ups for Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies
Meet & Greet Sunday School Teachers/Bible Class Leaders

10:20 – Gather in Classrooms for a Bible Lesson

11:00 – Worship with Sunday School Children/Teachers/Bible Study Leaders Processing

Ladies of Concordia

Mark Friday, September 27, & Saturday, September 28, on your calendar for an in-house women’s retreat here at Concordia. Angelica Young (former CCDS teacher) and Kathy Unverfehrt will be teaming up to lead this event on the topic of “Cultivating Joy through Gratitude.” Invite a friend to join you for this spiritual adventure! Stay tuned for more exciting information!

August is education month at Concordia!

Please join your Concordia family in these upcoming fun and faith-filled events!

- August 1-18: Collection of School Supplies for Shuford Elementary & Newton Conover Middle School
 - August 3: “One in Christ” (held at the fairgrounds)
 - August 11-31: Prayers for Our Schools/Education/Bible Studies
 - August 18: “Back-to-School Bash”/Teacher & Staff Dedication/Backpack Blessing
 - August 25: Rally Day/Bible Class Testimonies & Sign-Ups
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For us to adequately plan for the dinner, please respond by contacting the school office (828-464-3011), the church office (828-464-3324) or by using the QR code or go here: . We pray that everyone will come to reflect on the life of Jesus as we gather as people of God.



FROM THE BOARD OF ASSIMILATION:



SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP!

Fellowship is not possible without volunteers to make the coffee, set out the stocked items, and provide fresh fruit or a sweet or savory treat. You can volunteer by using the QR code or by calling the church office. It is very easy to manage, it just takes a little of your time on Sunday mornings to get things organized. Please consider being a part of this fellowship ministry. Find a how to document on page 19 of this newsletter.

What: Set up for fellowship by 9:50a

Where: Fellowship Room

Bring: Fresh fruit and snack to share

Many other items are stocked in the cabinets in the Fellowship Room.

DONATE BLOOD



Where: Concordia Lutheran Church Family Life Center – 215 5th Ave SE, Conover

When: Wednesday, August 7th

Time: 1p – 5:30p

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org Enter: Concordia

Why not wear a name badge to church? Let's cite the reasons: I forget it. I don't like name badges. Don't tell me what to do.

OK, granted, so then why does the Board of Assimilation encourage wearing name badges to church? Let's cite the reasons: it jogs our memories when our minds go blank on a name. It helps visitors identify members if they have questions. It encourages us to look at one another as we discreetly check names. A face and a name together carry more personality and are easier to remember than either a face or a name alone.

C'mon, be a sport! Let's wear our name badges. If you don't have one, contact the church office or a member of the Board of Assimilation or fill out the form below.

Ever wish you were cleverer at remembering names? God knows each of His own by name (see Isaiah 49:16 and 43:1, John 10:3, etc.), but our memories for names often need help.

Let's wear our name badges to worship, fellowship, all Concordia events.

Don't have one? Easy fix: **Drop this form and your payment into the offering plate or at the church office; then sit back and await delivery.** It's that simple.

Concordia's magnetic badge is light and easy to wear and read. No pins to jab you or spoil your clothing. **Cost is \$8.00 each.**

Please clearly print here.....

Name

Best telephone number

Payment enclosed

Cash (preferred)

Check

The Board of Assimilation thanks you for your participation!

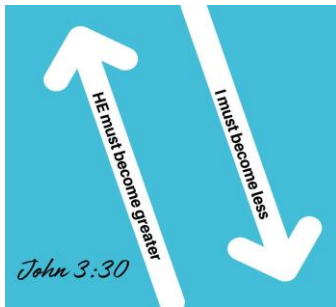


CONCORDIA
Christian Day School
A Tradition of *Excellence* in a Changing World

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.

2024-2025 School Theme



John 3:30

He must become greater; I must become less

Our focus this year is to live a life so people think about Jesus. We want to live each day exalting the name of Jesus.

First Day of School

On the first day of school, Wednesday, August 21, we will commence at 8:00 am and hold an Opening Chapel Service at 8:45 am for K-8 students and families in the sanctuary of Concordia Lutheran Church. All parents, grandparents, and families are welcome to join us. Please note that PS3 and Pre-K 4 students will not attend the opening chapel but will attend all other chapels. The school day will end early at 11:30 am for preschool and 11:45 am for K-8th grade. After-school childcare is not available.

August Mission Project

The school's chapel offerings are given to a charity organization every month. This month, we will designate our chapel offerings for the Corner Table's Backpack Program. The Backpack Program serves children in over forty local schools who face hunger on the weekends in Catawba and Alexander County. Your contributions will make a significant difference in these children's lives.



Welcome New Staff and Faculty

We thank God for our talented Concordia staff members and their commitment to our children's education. We are happy to introduce Ms. Tracie Henderson as our new PS3 Assistant and Mrs. Colleen Fox as our new Pre-K 4 Assistant. Mrs. Jackie Stevens has moved from Pre-K 4 to 3rd grade as the Teacher Assistant. Please welcome Mr. Jose Zapa as our new Spanish teacher. Miss Hannah Wright is our new face in after school. Listed below are the faculty and staff for the 2024-2025 school year:

Dave Beringer: Principal	Alyssa Scalf: 6th Grade Homeroom, M.S. Social Studies, CRU
Betsy Murray: Preschool Director, Assistant Principal	Christine Beringer: 7th Grade Homeroom, M.S. ELA, CRU
Samantha Hendershot: Administrative Assistant	Renee Karre: 8th Grade Homeroom, M.S. Math, CRU
Kate Cullen: Office Assistant	Paul Von Rentzell: 5th-8th Grade Science, STEM Class, Study Hall
Laura Perry: PS3 Lead Teacher	Jose Zapa: PS3 -8th Grade Spanish Teacher
Tracie Henderson: PS3 Teacher Assistant	Lauren Cornwell: PS3-8th Gr. Librarian
Amanda Munday: PK4 Lead Teacher	Jessica Westby: PS3 - 5th Grade Music, 6th-8th Gr. Choir, 5th Beginning Band, and 6th-8th Advanced Band, CRU
Colleen Fox: PK4 Teacher Assistant	Amy Coffey: K-8th Grade Technology Teacher
Krystal Freeman: Kindergarten Teacher	Brent Pearson: K-8th Gr. PE Instructor & Athletic Director, Study Hall
Brooke Bryant: Kindergarten Teacher Assistant	Tammy Grant: Middle School Art Teacher, Yearbook
Lisa Brittain: 1st Grade Teacher	Stephanie Franklin: School Age B/A Care Director
Leslie Reed: 1st Grade Teacher Assistant	Brittany Hoke: Before School Care Assistant
Caitlin Snyder: 2nd Grade Teacher	Caitlin Snyder: After School Care Assistant
Kimberly Elmore: 2nd Grade Teacher Assistant	Hannah Wright: After School Care Assistant
Katrina Garrison: 3rd Grade Teacher	Donovan Douglas: Information Technology
Jackie Stevens: 3rd Grade Teacher Assistant	Leonard Herman: Custodian
Briana Welch: 4th Grade Teacher	
Lori Roseman: 4th Grade Teacher Assistant	
Stephanie Guelzow: 5th Grade Teacher	
Kathy Pruitt: 5th Grade Teacher Assistant	

News from...

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Your Lutheran High School

August 2024

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year

As UCHS begins the '24-'25 school year, we welcome three new staff members who bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and dedication to the school. We also welcome 28 new Barracudas!

We are delighted to introduce Mr. Stewart Smith, our new Science Teacher, Mrs. Nikki Levin, handling Bookkeeping, and Mr. Jacob Wadsworth, our new Athletic Director. These individuals will continue the long tradition of facilitating an enriching culture of academic excellence, moral character, and servant leadership at UCHS.

Outstanding AP Scores Reported

UCHS is thrilled to announce the results of our latest AP scores. An exceptional 97% of the 102 UCHS students tested received an AP score of 3 or above! The UCHS average AP score was 4.6. We congratulate those students and their teachers on their hard work and impressive results!

Become a Barracuda!

Admissions for the 2025-2026 school year will open in mid-August! We are still currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. To apply online, visit www.uchigh.com and go to the Admissions section. If you are interested, feel free to contact us at 828-855-2995. Act now and don't miss this opportunity!

Annual Theme Verse

The UCHS 2024-2025 Theme is **Focus**. Our theme verse is Hebrews 12:1-2. *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Barracudas Serve

UCHS students recorded over 6,554 service hours for the 2023-2024 school year. That results in an economic impact of \$178,277.00 to our community. We are so proud of our students demonstrating one of our core values, servant leadership.

Sunday Fellowship Notes

Everything needs to be set up by 9:50 and start the clean-up at 10:10 to ensure everyone gets to their Sunday school class.

How to Make Coffee:

Coffee filter packs are kept in the far left hand cabinet. Red packs are regular coffee, orange packs are decaffeinated coffee.

- Turn on the machine.
- Fill a pot with water.
- Place a filter pack of coffee in the coffee filter basket and push it into the machine.
- Place an empty pot under the brewer. (Use the orange handled pot for decaf.)
- Pour water into the machine. (It will start brewing immediately, so make sure there is an empty pot underneath while you're pouring in the water and the coffee packet is in the basket.)
- Repeat as needed to make 2 pots of regular and 1 pot of decaf (orange handled pot).

Paper Products:

Set out plates/napkins/utensils - whatever is needed. We typically do not set out plates unless there are food items that require plates or eating utensils. These items are located in the cabinets under the counter.

Grab and Go Items:

Stock the grab and go snack bins with items stored underneath the counter on the right-hand side. These items do not need to be put away.

Cheese and Crackers:

Cheese is provided in the small fridge. Set out some cheese and crackers (stored under the counter) on a platter that is also located under the counter.

Additional Snacks:

The fruit and snack you bring will be set out with the above. Feel free to turn in your receipts to the church office if you would like to be reimbursed.

Drinks:

In addition to the coffee, there is a water dispenser in the narthex. Juice is kept in the refrigerator in the fellowship room.

Clean Up:

You can use the sink in the attached room if needed to help with clean up. There are towels and dishcloths in the drawer on the far left. These can be taken home to be laundered and returned. Please empty the coffee pots into pots in the kitchen and/or wash and put in the kitchen to dry. All bagged food items supplied by the church can be left out.



meals on wheels

OF CATAWBA COUNTY

Concordia members volunteer to deliver “Meals on Wheels” to our community. If you would like to be a part of this worthwhile activity, here is the information: We need your help! Can you spare 60-90 minutes once a month to help feed our seniors? We are looking for volunteers in the West Hickory area who are able to deliver meals once a month to homebound seniors. We have two pick up locations in West Hickory: Open Door Baptist Church and Marketplace Church. Meals are delivered Mon-Thurs each week. We also have openings on delivery routes in other areas of Catawba County. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 828-695-5610 for more information or submit your application online: <https://bit.ly/38fmC8D>

The Corner Table
Feeding Needs of Catawba County
COMMUNITY KITCHEN • BACKPACK PROGRAM • FROZEN MEALS

The Corner Table's 9th Annual
PARADE OF CANS FOOD DRIVE
August 1-31st
Help us feed our community!
Scan the QR code for a list of our most needed food items, more info on the drive, or make a donation towards the drive!

Bring your donations to the church office and will make sure they are delivered to the Corner Table.



Ashure Ministry
Phone: 828-465-1702
P.O. Box 31
Newton, NC 28658
ashureministry.org

Highlights

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on June 13th. We had a great crowd, and would like to thank all of our volunteers once again, and also announce that our Charlie Bunn Food Pantry Volunteer of the Year Award went to Betty Lynch. Congratulations Betty!

Share the Harvest Event Please save the date of Saturday, October 19th, 2024 for our annual Share the Harvest! The event will include a delicious meal, fabulous fellowship, and lovely dance music sung by The Extraordinaires! Join us for this awesome annual event!

Coffee and Conversation sessions are every month on the 3rd Wednesday from 8:30-9:30am. It's an opportunity to catch up on the latest updates, find ways to get involved, and take a behind-the-scenes tour. To register for the next session, visit our website ashureministry.org/events, and click on the Coffee and Conversations button.

New This Fall- Ashure Ministry Internship Program The Ashure Ministry S.E.E.D. Internship Program (Service, Engagement, Experience, Development), will be available for local high school students this fall. It offers a comprehensive view of the inner workings and impact of Ashure Ministry. It involves at least 50 hours of volunteer work, a skills test, a couple written assignments, and a final project designed to help the ministry and bring everything the students have learned full circle. Upon completion, students will receive a certificate that they can list on college, scholarship, or job applications. The program runs from October through May. If you would like to find out more information about the program, you can contact Allen Sherrill, our Volunteer Engagement Director, at 828-446-5418 or at a.sherrill@ashureministry.org.

Food Pantry In July we are collecting snacks for kids, and in August our item of the month is canned food with pop-tops. Our food pantry and thrift store can always use gallon zipper bags, and medium and large recycled shopping and grocery bags. Want to volunteer? Join our church rotational calendar or come in as an individual! Please contact our Director of Volunteer Engagement, Allen Sherrill at a.sherrill@ashureministry.org, or by calling (828) 446-5418. We would love for you to join our team! Thank you for supporting our ministry.

September 2nd - Closed in observance of Labor Day
Ashure Ministry and Thrifty Threads and Treasures are located at 245 East N Street, Newton, NC.

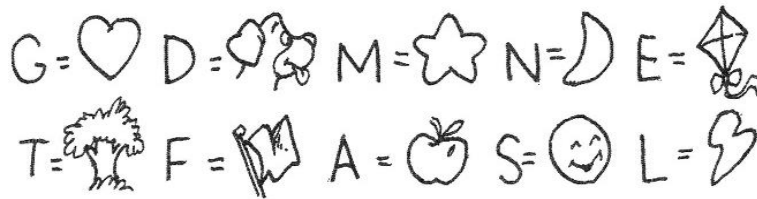
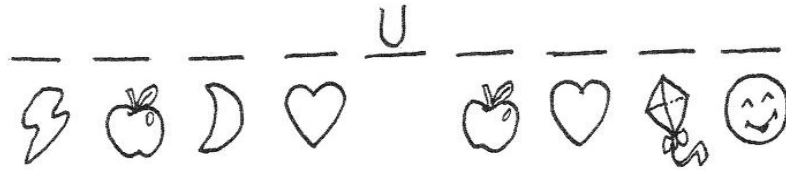
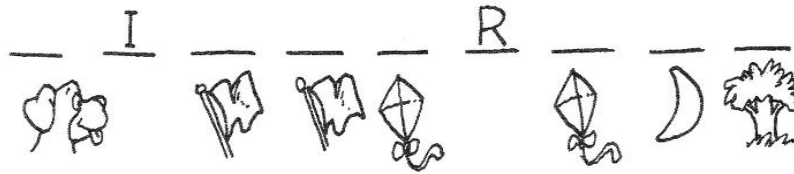
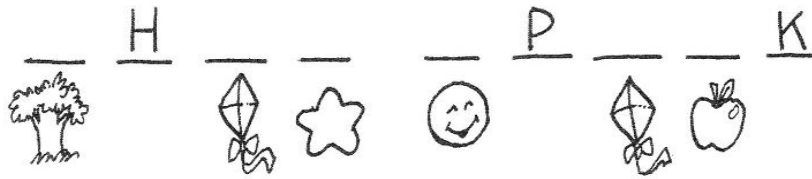
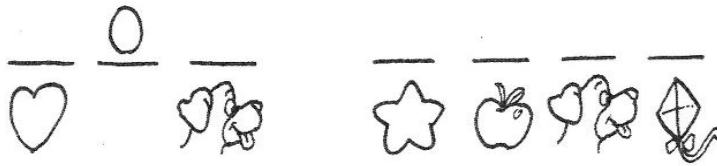
AUGUST

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.

Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For LWML Mission Grant #18.
2. For God to work through and bless our national LWML and LCMS leaders.
3. For Macau, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For the opportunities to share your faith story.
5. For someone to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with this week.
6. For the Lutheran Women in Mission LWML Strategic Plan Facilitator.
7. For the country of Madagascar.
8. For the LWML Utah-Idaho District and the Gospel work there.
9. For those who are suffering from loneliness, depression, and anxiety.
10. For all LCMS pastors and church workers.
11. For the country of Mongolia.
12. For the opportunity to meet someone new this week.
13. For the opportunity to pray for someone who has a special need.
14. For our church to be united.
15. For the country of Malawi.
16. For the LWML Rocky Mountain District.
17. For your extended family who need Jesus.
18. For the mission work of the LWML.
19. For the country of Nicaragua.
20. For the LWML Wyoming District.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #19.
22. For opportunities to reach people who are still far from knowing God.
23. For the country of Namibia.
24. For the LWML Minnesota South District.
25. For the gifts and talents in your church.
26. For the country of Nigeria.
27. For LWML Mission Grant #20.
28. For volunteers with hearts of service.
29. For the LWML Central Illinois District.
30. For healing of strained relationships.
31. For more time to read God's Word and listen to God's voice.



God's people were building a very tall tower.
 When God saw it, He was not happy.
 What did God do to stop the building?

Use the code to fill in the blanks.
 Then read the answer.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries



Maggie Hamm	1-Aug
Kate Cullen	1-Aug
Jerri Carter	2-Aug
Abbey Hayes	2-Aug
Caleb Brown	2-Aug
Jay Noell	3-Aug
Daniel Long	4-Aug
Lydia Stewart	4-Aug
Jake Parks	7-Aug
Kay Loftin	7-Aug
Everlee Farmer	7-Aug
Carla Hafer	8-Aug
William DeHart	8-Aug
Dottie DeHart	11-Aug
Arden Hintzmann	12-Aug
Mack Isenhower	12-Aug
Lesa Williams	12-Aug
Deanna Moore	12-Aug
Sophie Hayes	13-Aug
Angie Isenhower	14-Aug
Paul Nelson	15-Aug
Gina Sigmon	16-Aug
Debbie Spencer	17-Aug
Cliff Reid	17-Aug
Stephen Huss	18-Aug
Bobby Moore	18-Aug
Aidan White	19-Aug
Doris Kirby	20-Aug
Joe Rhyne	22-Aug
John Newton	23-Aug
Kim Hauser	23-Aug
Darrin Reid	23-Aug
Nilza Artelt	23-Aug
Don Beal	24-Aug
Kendall Hamm	24-Aug
Pamela Farmer	24-Aug

Kelly Roth	24-Aug
John Williams	25-Aug
Cliff Brown	26-Aug
Paula Opper	26-Aug
Linda Coffey	27-Aug
Melinda Parks	28-Aug
Pat Welch	28-Aug
Charlotte Weaver	28-Aug
Paul Hale	30-Aug
Alice Baker	31-Aug
Gracin Roseman	31-Aug
Ashlie Slotter	31-Aug



Laine & Diana Cloninger	1-Aug
Don & Clydie Beal	3-Aug
Mark & Mary Canrobert	4-Aug
Paul & Sandy Von Rentzell	4-Aug
Randy & Carmen Isenhower	6-Aug
Brian & Victoria Weaver	8-Aug
Bart & Jennifer Travis	10-Aug
Paul & Barbara Nelson	10-Aug
Matt & Beth Pennell	10-Aug
Jeff & Jackie Smith	10-Aug
Steve & Andrea Miller	11-Aug
Brad & Miranda Bost	13-Aug
Kyle & Vanessa Brown	14-Aug
Gary & Joyce Boston	15-Aug
Andrew & Susan Matthews	16-Aug
Fred & Nancy Starnes	20-Aug
Arden & Lois Hintzmann	22-Aug
Terry & Audra Kuchenbecker	27-Aug
Corey & Jolleen Christians	27-Aug
Cristal & Bernie Rager	29-Aug
Eric & Diana Hicks	29-Aug
Lamar & Jessica Stewart	29-Aug

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

sharman@concordianc.org

828.464.3324

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">August 2024</h1>				1	2	3
				6:30am Men's Bible Study	2pm Joyful Stitchers – BLCFM 	9am "We Are One in Christ"
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion  2pm Introduction to Communion	1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:45pm Scouts	6pm Trustees Farmworker Appreciation Day 	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 1pm Blood Drive - FLC 6:15pm Praise Band	6:30am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 6:30pm Christian Ed. - EM	National Book Lovers Day 	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion  2pm Introduction to Communion	YOUTH <small>CAN CHANGE THE WORLD</small> International Youth Day 6:45pm Scouts	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 11:30am PrimeTimers - EM 6pm Assimilation - Library 6:30pm Day School Board - CCDS 6:30pm Elders - EM 6:30pm Trustees -	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 6:15pm Praise Band	6:30am Men's Bible Study	12pm Newsletter Deadline  2pm Joyful Stitchers - BLCFM 10pm 6th - 12th Grade Youth Lock-In	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am LLL 9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion  12pm Back to School Bash – FLC	1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:45pm Scouts	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 5:30pm Mission & Ministry - Library 6:30pm Stewardship - EM	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 8am First day of school - CCDS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  6:15pm Praise Band	6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council – EM National Burger Day 		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Rally Day 9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion  5pm First Youth Meeting - Organize & Plan – YC 	1pm LWML – EM 6:45pm Scouts	8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting – EM National Banana Lovers Day 	7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 6:15pm Praise Band	6:30am Men's Bible Study		