

Concordia Newsletter

October 2024



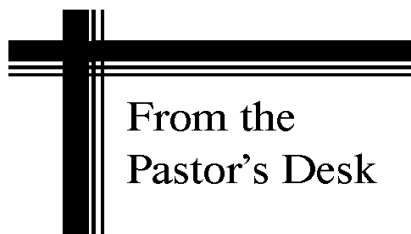
Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School
216 5th Ave SE. Conover, NC 28613
Church 828.464.3324 | School 828.464.3011
Rev. Michael Geml, Sr. Pastor 828.464.3324 x303 | C 517.395.8422
Mr. David Beringer, Principal 828.464.3301 x202

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

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

If something, anything is to be changed, it must be modified in some recognizable way. To modify means a slight change or minor alteration. I wanted to make sure that I knew the proper definition of the word so, I looked up the meaning. The dictionary said the word modify is a “transitive verb.” So, of course, I needed to look up what transitive meant. Here is the dictionary definition of transitive.

Being or relating to a relation with the property that if the relation holds between a first element and a second and between the second element and a third, it holds between the first and third elements.

There you have it. Thanks to the dictionary for making it so clear that I’m a dunce. Sometimes definitions do not provide the help one desires. Sometimes definitions, even when they are understood, still don’t help. I will, therefore, modify my approach and head in another direction.

There are things we would change if we could; things about ourselves, our families, our world. And not just a slight change or minor alteration but a wholesale, all out transformation. We desire to be more faithful followers of Jesus. We have a desire for our children to come back to the faith. We have a desire for our world to stop its continual spiraling downward. The challenge comes when the desire comes face to face with the magnitude of such endeavors. Change, real change is hard, and it takes a persistence and a tenacity that never gives up. Most people are not willing to go that far, either with themselves or with others. Our God alone is

that persistent. Our God desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth, (1Timothy 2:4). To secure that desire of His, Jesus comes not to slightly change things or to provide a minor alteration but to totally transform those who come to Him in faith. In our baptism into His death and resurrection (see Romans 6) we are brought out of darkness into His light. We are brought from death to life. All who are in Christ are new creations, (2Cor5). New creations with a new perspective, new direction, and new desires.

Our perspective, direction, and desires are guided by the Holy Spirit to please the Lord in thoughts, words and deeds. In so doing we glorify God, honor Christ Jesus, and we serve our loved ones and even the world with the much needed presence of Jesus. Let us live and love as those who have been eternally changed.

To God alone be the glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Pastor Geml



“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!



Youth Ministry Program Update



National Youth Gathering in July 19-23 in New Orleans (Grades 8-12)

Our meeting on September 22 was for adults as well as youth. We talked about goals for going, transportation options, costs, fund raising plans, chaperones, extra activities before the gathering begins, as well as required Bible Study dates. The gathering is for youth presently in grade 8, high school (9-12) and youth one year out of high school or age 19 and younger. Participation in fund raisers and Bible Studies is required to attend. The deadline for deciding if you are going is October 20. All paperwork needs to be mailed on Nov. 1.

Other Activities (All 7-12 graders)

Sunday, October 13: Hunger Walk and Defy. Youth can meet me at 2:15 pm in the school lot to catch the bus or at 2:45 pm in downtown Newton. We will do the 5k walk. Use the QR code on the right to sign up for the Hunger walk!



Saturday, October 19: Scarowinds. Vanessa Brown is taking the group and will need additional parents to help. Total cost for a youth is \$30. If you have a season pass, there is no cost to go. Adults will be paid for by the church. You will need additional money for food. **Let us know ASAP if you are interested in going.** We will leave Concordia at 4:30 pm. Meet in the CCDS parking lot. We will return around 11:30-Midnight.

Sunday, October 27: Concordia's Fall Festival. The youth will have a chance to support an outreach event at Concordia Lutheran Church by helping with games and activities at the Fall Festival. Youth volunteers should come about 3:00 pm to help set up.

Lots of great things are happening this fall. Contact Bill at 828-238-4239 if you can help or have any questions.



Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Events for October

October 1 – Conover Night Out

October 5 – Lake Hickory River Sweep

October 11-13 – Panthertown Backpacking Trip

October 27 – Help with Concordia's Fall Festival

Don't forget to check out BSA Troop 383's Facebook page and the church's website to read the scout newsletter <https://www.concordianc.org/58-boy-scouts/>. They are preparing a newsletter this year in as part of the Communication Merit Badge. They did an incredible job. Moving forward, we will work to issue a newsletter 2-3 times a year, rotating in new "authors". A special thanks to Kyle Smith for helping launch this project.



Hospital/Out Patient: Denise Gilbert, Bernice Holler, Mary Herman,

Sympathy to: Cheryl Emerson and family upon the death of her daughter Lisa Emerson; Dale & Debbie Spencer upon the death of her mother, Marjorie Reeves.

Blessings to: Addie Welch & Reece Beck upon their marriage on Sept. 7; Roy & Cindy Sigmon upon the birth of a grandchild, Elliott (Eli) Sigmon Sederstrom.

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.

"Did you know?"

From a suggestion to an action! A prayer circle has been formed as a new ministry for our church. The members of the circle will pray for you in strict confidence. If you would like to submit a request for prayer, please contact Dianne Lawing at dlawing0912@yahoo.com or 828-850-1460 or Cindy Sigmon at thecrew@charter.net or 828-302-2688 or Sharon White at 828-238-4869. This circle is in addition to being included on the prayer list that is in our Highlights each week. Contact the church office if you would like to be added to the prayer list in the Highlights.



OCTOBER is BINGO MONTH at the PRIME TIMERS MEETING!!

The Prime Timers will be having a Pot Luck Lunch on October 8th at 11:30AM, followed by BINGO. There will be a short business meeting. Please make plans to attend and bring a gift if you plan to play Bingo.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

If you would like to subscribe to The Lutheran Witness, please let the church office know. Subscription price is \$22.00 for one year. If you would like to renew your subscription, please let the church office know before October 26, 2023.



October 6th at 3p is the next time we gather. We will look at "Praying Scripture."

The Bible itself is a conduit for conversation with God. The practice of "Praying Scripture" is a blending of the gifts of prayer and God's Word. The practice is simply taking a passage of Scripture as a starting point and then using it to praise God for who He is, to thank God for His goodness in your life, to lament the obstacles in your path, to confess your sins, to ask for God's intervention, to intercede for others, or to gain insight into learning how to live life differently. The Practice of "[Praying Scripture](#)" provides words when you have no idea what to pray or where to begin.

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. It is our hope that we can help you grow in your faith by presenting different faith practices.

FROM THE BOARD OF MISSION & MINISTRY

Our New Missionary in Belize

Concordia congregation has adopted a LCMS missionary serving in Belize! The Rev. Jason Groth and his wife Emily along with their four children serve the Lord as career missionaries in the Central American country of Belize. Our commitment to the Groth family is to support them financially (\$100 a month) and to pray fervently for them. The Groth family began serving this year following Jason's graduation from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The work will involve sharing the Gospel, helping to plant Lutheran churches and coordinating the operations of Camp Concordia in Belmopan, Belize. Both Jason and Emily were born in Michigan and call Lawrence, Michigan their home. You can learn more about them at [LCMS.org/missionary-support](https://www.lcms.org/missionary-support).

Please pray for the Groth family as they learn a new language and adapt to a new culture. May the Lord keep them safe and healthy as they serve and witness their faith in our Savior Jesus.



Join the Board of Mission and Ministry in the "Hunger Walk of Catawba County!"



Use the QR code below to sign up or register at the event on Sunday, October 13th at 2:00p. The youth will be joining us in walking. Concordia is a sponsor of the walk this year so let's show up!

Ashure Ministry (formerly ECCCM) and The Corner Table are excited to announce that the Hickory Soup Kitchen will be joining the 2024 Catawba County Hunger Walk. Proceeds from this year's walk will benefit all three organizations. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for hunger relief efforts in Eastern Catawba County, and to heighten awareness of the hunger issue within our community.

The three organizations are asking that you will find it in your heart to support their hunger relief efforts. All Hunger Walk donations will be shared evenly between these organizations, and you may rest assured that your gift will be used to feed the hungry here in Catawba County. Thank you for helping Ashure Ministry, Hickory Soup Kitchen, and The Corner Table in our common ministry of feeding those who suffer from hunger.



Sunday, October 13, 2024 (Downtown Newton)

2:00PM - Registration

2:45PM - Welcome, Warm-Up, & Awards

(Awards will be provided for Largest Team, Top Team Fundraiser, and Top Individual Fundraiser)

3:00PM - Walk (5K and 1 Mile Option)

(Refreshments will be provided following the walk)

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - 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 happens on Wednesday nights and will end 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 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 ASSIMILATION:

Historical Facts:

Did you know there are new signs posted in various locations around the church? **Did you know** they explain various aspects of our church building? **Did you know** these historical facts provide rich history about Concordia? See if you can find all 9 of the new **Did You know** signs!

Greeters Needed!

Are you looking to get more involved? It’s as easy as saying “Hello!” Being a greeter doesn’t require much time or energy, but yet makes a huge difference by starting our church service off with a friendly smile. We’d love to have you join our greeting team. Please reach out to Sandy Von Rentzell at 303-829-9801 for more information or to sign up! All you have to do is say “Hello!”



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. See the instructions on the next page.

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.

Name Badge Order Form

Many of you have ordered name badges recently and we thank you! We want to encourage everyone to wear a name badge. It's easier to get to know each other that way. Don't be shy... order your name badge today!

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!



LWML Sunday is October 6th.

On October 6th, the quilts that have been made in the last year will be blessed. It is a record year for our quilters.

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.

OCTOBER

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 Autumn and cooler weather.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #23.
3. For Poland, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For the LWML North Dakota District.
5. For immigrants and the people who help them settle in the USA.
6. For coaches who give their time to young athletes.
7. For the country of Russia.
8. For musicians who bring us wonderful Christian music.
9. For Youth Group leaders.
10. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Meeting Manager.
11. For LWML Mission Grant #24.
12. For the LWML South Dakota District.
13. For the Florida-Georgia District.
14. For the country of Rwanda.
15. For our senses that allow us to enjoy our beautiful world.
16. For people who struggle to put food on the table.
17. For the country of Siberia.
18. For the LWML Minnesota North District.
19. For our local, state, and national elected leaders.
20. For Sunday school teachers.
21. For the country of Sierra Leone.
22. For the stars God created that are too numerous to count.
23. For beautiful sunsets that bring us to the close of each day.
24. For the country of South Korea.
25. For LWML Mission Grant #25.
26. For God's promise through a rainbow after a storm.
27. For our waste and recycling collectors.
28. For food pantries and people who donate and volunteer their time.
29. For the country of Sri Lanka.
30. For the sun that brightens our days.
31. For the Lutheran Reformation.



The Parent Block

Spiritual Building Blocks for Parents

Written by Kathy Unverfehrt



Scripture Verse

“God has chosen you and made you His holy people. He loves you.”

So always do these things:

Show mercy to others, be kind, humble, gentle, and patient.”

Colossians 3:12

Reflection

One of the toughest tasks parents have today is teaching their children about friendships. The experiences and challenges we have faced in the social world have given us knowledge and wisdom that our younger children have no concept of, and that our older children need to be taught. We have faced disappointments, heartaches, and emotional anxieties that our children have yet to experience. We cannot assume that children will navigate through building relationships all on their own. Nor should we even desire this for them by thinking that they will learn from their mistakes. Learning from one’s mistakes is certainly a valuable tool, however, in regards to developing healthy relationships it can have a longer lasting negative effect in their lives. Therefore, it is imperative that we teach our children how to develop, not just friendships, but godly friendships. As parents, we need to spend time with our children in intentional and instructional discussions about friendship. The importance of this directly relates to the impact your teaching will have on your child as he maneuvers his way into the social world – a world that often extends beyond the security of his own family. One lesson to teach your child is how to be a good and godly friend – the kind of friend that Jesus is to all people. The Apostle Paul gives us insight to this type of friend in his words to the Colossians. He shares with us parenting advice in leading our children to reflect Jesus to others through the friendships they will develop. Through our modeling and instruction, we are to teach our children to show mercy to others, be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. There is no compromising Paul’s words and the example we set for our children through our own friendships. What they see in us is what they will learn and live.

Parent Commitment

I will teach my child how to be a godly friend.

I will teach my child what God desires of him in developing friendships.



Parent Post

One-of-a-kind! Each dear child of the Heavenly Father is indeed irreplaceable! Each child of God is special, unique, precious, and treasured by Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save each of us from sin, death, and the devil.

Christian parenting involves reminding our children how unique and special they are – both in our eyes and in the eyes of their Savior. When we offer them support and encouragement we help them become confident and assured. Telling them, “You are God’s special child” reminds them of how important they are. Each one is unique, one-of-a-kind, exceptional, a blessing from God.

Stretch your faith-filled parenting:

Each day, remind your children that they are God’s children, a blessing to you, loved and cherished by God and you.

Prayer:

Precious Lord,

You have given me a treasured gift in my child. Remind me of that fact, even when my dear one doesn’t act like such a dear one.

Children are precious, special, and dearly loved by You. Help me to give my child daily assurance of the certainty of Your love and mine.

In Your wonderful name, Amen.

(LWML Mustard Seed: Faith-Filled Parenting)

Mealtime Prayer for Young Children

*Our hands we fold,
Our heads we bow;
For food and drink
We thank You now. Amen.*

Table Talk Topics

Here are some questions to share with your children while sitting around the dinner table. They are a fun and interesting way to discover more about your child!

1. What is the best Halloween costume you have ever seen?
2. What song always makes you want to get up and dance?
3. Which board games are the most fun?
4. What is your favorite chore to do? Least favorite? Why?
5. What did you do to help someone today?
6. What were you thankful for today?
7. If you could be any animal, what would it be?

9 Steps to More Effective Parenting

Raising kids is one of the toughest and most fulfilling jobs in the world. Here are 9 child-rearing tips that can help you feel more fulfilled as a parent.

1. Boost Your Child’s Self-Esteem

Praising accomplishments, however small, will make your child feel proud; letting kids do things independently will make them feel capable and strong. By contrast, belittling comments or comparing a child unfavorably with another will make him feel worthless.

2. Catch Your Child Being Good

Make it a point of finding something to praise your child about every day. Your hugs, love, and compliments can work wonders.

3. Set Limits and Be Consistent with Your Discipline

The goal of discipline is to help kids choose acceptable behaviors and learn self-control. Establishing house rules helps your child to understand your expectations. Consistency in your discipline helps kids learn that you mean what you say.

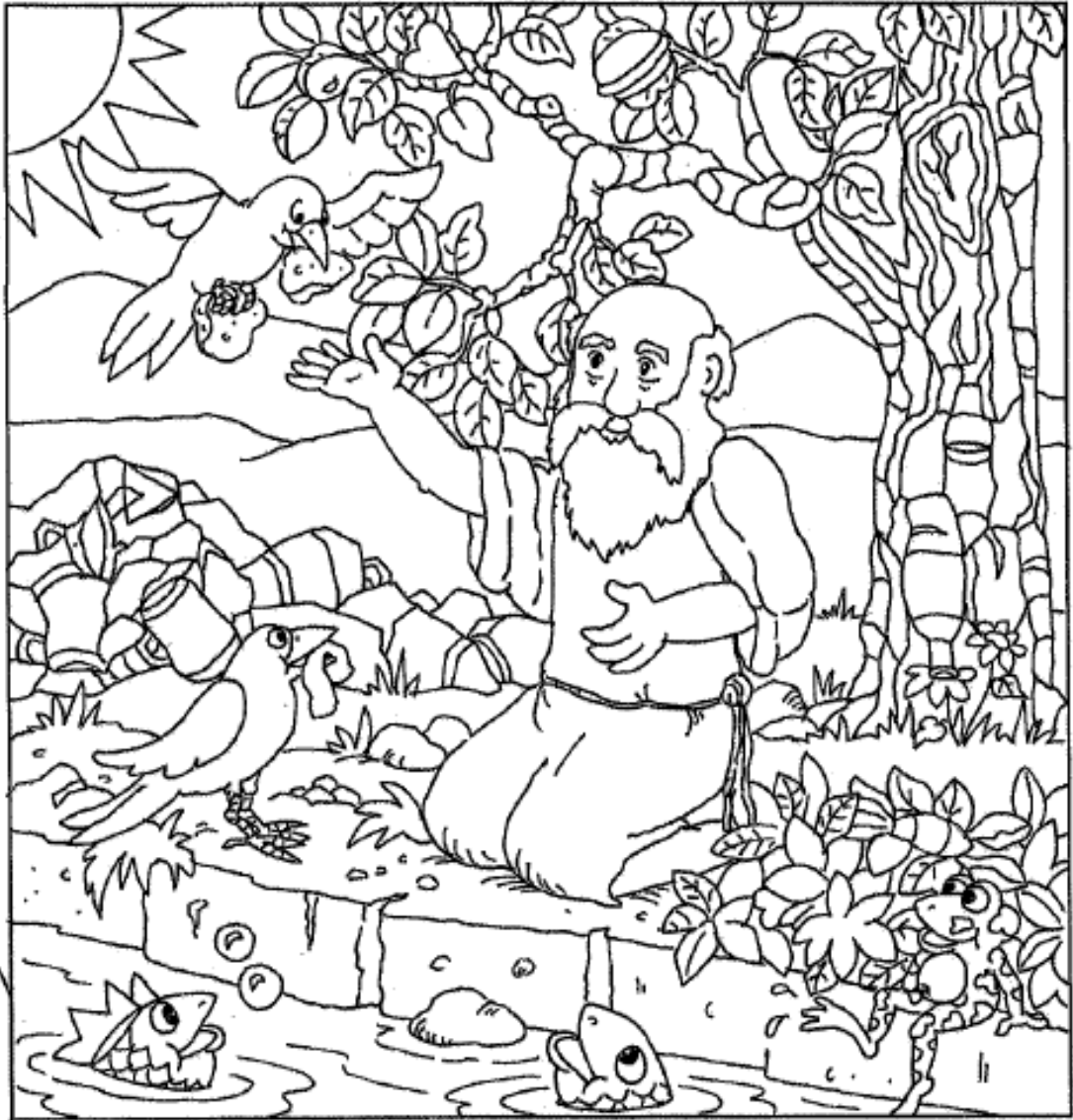
4. Make Time for Your Kids

Many parents find it rewarding to schedule together time with their kids. Create a “special night” each week to be together and let your kids help decide how to spend the time. Look for other ways to connect like putting a note or something special in your child’s lunchbox.

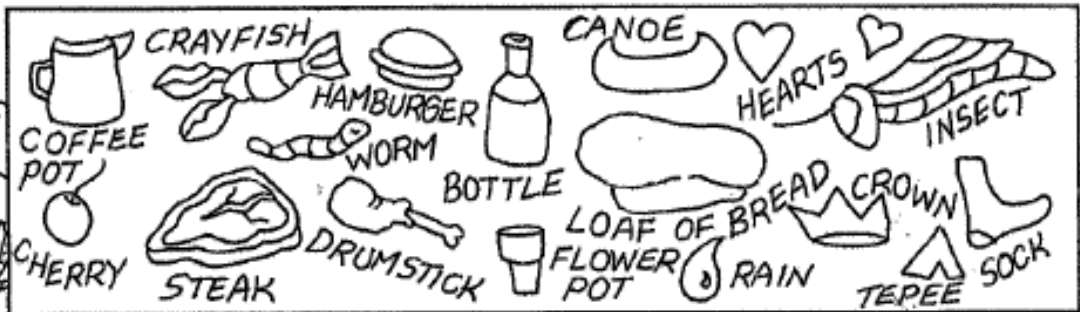
5. Be a Good Role Model

Model the traits you wish to see in your kids: respect, friendliness, honesty, kindness, tolerance. Exhibit unselfish behavior. Do things for other people without expecting something in return. Express thanks and offer compliments.

(Look for more steps to effective parenting next month.)



Do you want a piece of bread?



Find the hidden pictures above in the puzzle.

God sent ravens twice a day to feed Elijah meat and bread.
 (Read the story in 1 Kings 17).

The Stewart's Seminary Journey

Seminary here we come!

by Lamar Stewart on August 19, 2024



First, let us begin by saying thank you! Thank you for your prayers, your words of encouragement, your financial support and all the outpouring of love that we have felt as we embarked on this new adventure. God is leading us on this amazing adventure as I begin my studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO to be trained to become an LCMS pastor. This summer has been filled with many emotions and firsts. Late this winter Jessica and I began entertaining the idea of returning to ministry. In all honesty, I was content being a church participant and did not have many thoughts of getting back in the professional ministry ranks, lol, as the saying goes, “if you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans.” In our discussions and discernment it became clear to us quickly that God had a plan for us to be open to a return to vocational ministry. I immediately assumed that meant being open to a Director of Christian Education call and so I began the process of starting conversations with the District. Those conversations shifted as God began to work through those interactions to plant and water the seed for us to consider the route of pastoral ministry. As a surprise to me, and yet seemingly not a surprise to many friends, family and ministry colleagues, God was preparing us for this journey for a long time. I, myself, was just slow to come to the realization, but all in God’s timing. Long story short after, going through all the steps we decided to begin the Seminary this summer as I needed to complete Biblical Greek in preparation for fall classes.

We spent a large chunk of May and beginning of June finalizing details and packing up. One of the hardest parts to this journey was leaving family, friends and all we had grown accustomed to over the last several years. How would this



impact the girls? Saying goodbyes was definitely the hardest. But by prayer and trust in God and with encouragement even from those who were some of the most difficult goodbyes we set out for Missouri in June. As our oldest Aileen said when we first brought up the idea of moving, “It will be an adventure, dad”. Isn’t it humbling when your own children get it better than we do. Faith like a child is so simple and yet we try to overly complicate it.

My summer Greek courses began almost immediately upon arrival and so I was inundated with the “Greek fog” as we joked that kept me from being able to help much with our settling in. Thanks to Jessica’s wonderful attention to detail and meticulous planning she was able to orchestrate and get us settled in before she and the girls began school. We found time to meet a few new people while also trying to begin to find some new norms in our new region of the world. The girls are champs and have settled in quite nicely, yes, with the expected and completely understandable swings of emotion that come with being apart from family and friends for the first times in their lives but overall they have embraced this new adventure God is leading us on with great anticipation.

They began their new school, Christ Community Lutheran School on August 14 and had a great half week of school to begin the year. Our school's theme this year is "Joyful in Jesus' Love" and how fitting it is in all seasons and all circumstances for us to remember to be joyful in the Lord. Jessica is working at the elementary school as the Full-Time Substitute Teacher. Aileen has started 3rd Grade, Esther entered Kindergarten and Lydia is enjoying playing with new friends in the 2 Year Old Room. We feel blessed to have all four in the same building each day. Aileen and Esther have immersed themselves head first into the CCLS Community by joining the Elementary Cross Country team and their respective grades soccer teams. We look forward to spending the next couple months of Saturday's on the sidelines cheering them on!



I have thankfully finished up summer Greek, which ended with the traditional 'Jumping of the Fountain' and will begin fall courses later this month.

As we settle into the new school year and continue to make new friends we are reminded regularly of the great friendships, family and church families we have connected with and spent life with the last few years. We continue to be amazed at the outpouring of God's blessings through his people to us on this journey. Please know that your messages, cards, gifts and most importantly your prayers have been a source of strength and encouragement for us as we continue to lean in and trust God on this journey.

Prayers:

As Paul states in Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

- For the girls to continue to be surrounded by a great group of friends and "family" during our time here in MO.
- That our house in NC will sell or rent soon.
- Part-time work for Lamar that helps with our bills, but allows his focus to remain on his learning.
- Prayers for each of you that God will continue to richly bless you all.

Stay Connected with The Stewart's:

We plan to continue updating our family newsletter online regularly. Check back for updates on **The Stewart's Seminary Journey**, use the following QR Code to check-in on updates from us as a family. If you would rather us send the newsletter to you directly, email Jessica at jhstew15@gmail.com.

The Stewart Family

1537 Paradise Valley Dr
High Ridge, MO, 63049





Fall FESTIVAL

Hey, everyone!

Mark your calendars now to attend Concordia's Fall Festival, which is being held on Sunday, October 27. 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. 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 27, 2024

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

Your Festive Spirit





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.

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.



CONCORDIA GOLF TOURNAMENT NOVEMBER 7

Concordia's Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, November 7, 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 flyer 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/ciS8PWWub6388rs7A>

STORYGLORY BOOK FAIR

Shop Online October 7-14

Use code **20%toCCDS** to support our Library!



IT'S BOOK FAIR TIME

at Concordia Christian Day School!


Shop engaging, wholesome books for the whole family! 20% of all sales will go to your school with code 20%toCCDS.

Your Storyglory Kids Book Fair will feature the following collections curated for CCDS:


- New and classic titles for Preschool to 8th Grade
- Bibles, devotionals, and outstanding Christian fiction
- Family read-alouds for ages 4+, 7+ and 10+
- Picks for parents and grandparents too!



Shop online from October 7-14 at storyglorykids.com/concordia

 Use code **20%toCCDS** to send 20% of sales to your school

Shop at CCDS from October 8-11

 **Fill a Storyglory gift card** or pay by cash, check, PayPal, or credit card



Questions? Email info@storyglorykids.com

Storyglory Kids delivers powerful stories of truth, goodness, and beauty into the lives of children, helping kids fall in love not just with good books but also with good ideas. Storyglory brings you books in partnership with Westminster Kids and Redeemed Reader.

storyglorykids.com/concordia

Fill a gift card at storyglorykids.com/giftcards for use in person or online

HUNGER WALK

Join us for the Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 13. We invite all CCDS families, Concordia Lutheran Church members and youth to join the team and raise money and awareness for hunger in our community. Use the QR code to register, or visit

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/RaceGroup-1599481?raceId=114923>

CCHUNGERWALK.COM

**SPONSOR START A TEAM
RAISE SUPPORT WALK
SPREAD THE WORD**



REGISTER NOW

CATAWBA COUNTY



HUNGER WALK

**SUNDAY | 3PM
OCTOBER 13, 2024
DOWNTOWN NEWTON
(Frank & Sue Jones Amphitheatre)**

BENEFITING



Ashure
MINISTRY
formerly ECCCM



The Corner Table



HICKORY Soup
KITCHEN

WHY WE WALK
To provide meals to the homes facing food insecurity in Catawba County!

INFORMATION

2:00PM - Registration 2:45PM - Awards
(Top Team Fundraiser, Largest Team, Top Individual Fundraiser)

QUESTIONS

Ashure Ministry (828-465-1702 ashureministry.org)	The Corner Table (828-464-0355 thecornertable.org)	Hickory Soup Kitchen (828-327-4828 hickorysoupkitchen.org)
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News from...

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Your Lutheran High School

October 2024

Admissions Open for 2025-2026

UCHS is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year! The online application can be found at <https://www.uchigh.com/admissions>

Attend an Open House

UCHS will have host Open Houses for interested families on *October 21* and *February 10*. Prospective parents can learn about the advantages of attending UCHS, hear an in-depth discussion of academic and student life, receive details regarding the admissions process, and enjoy a guided tour of the campus led by UCHS Student Ambassadors. Open Houses start at 6:00 pm. No registration is needed, but greatly appreciated.

Shadow Days Available

Prospective students are encouraged to spend a day “shadowing”, so they can experience what it is like to be a Barracuda. Shadow Days can be set up to fit your student’s availability. Go to “Schedule a Visit” at www.uchigh.com to sign up now!

Student Leadership 2024-2025

Student Ambassadors are led by Addie Duke (President) and Ethan Johnson (Vice President). Student Council officers are Addie Duke (President), Larkyn Gerken (Vice President), Evelyn Gerrard (Secretary), Mason Thomas (Treasurer), Ethan Johnson (Chaplain), Addie Ellinger (Publicist), Makenzie Haworth & Conner Frizzell (12th Grade Reps), Ceili McKinney & Elizabeth Pope (11th Grade Reps), Juan Olvera Rojo & Noah Roeder (10th Grade Reps), and Karson Byers & Charlotte Duke (9th Grade Reps).

Ethics Through Film Festival

UCHS is co-sponsoring an Ethics through Film Series with the Hickory Museum of Art at the Drendel Auditorium. The goal is to facilitate discussions on topics such as sacrifice, human dignity, and other topics specifically geared toward high school students. The series is open to the public and any interested area high school students. The first in the series in September featured *Bladerunner*, facilitated by Rand Brandes. The next in the series will be *Of Gods and Men*, on November 14th at 5:00 PM, led by UCHS Religion Teacher, Elspeth Shepherd.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries



Shirley Brooks	2-Oct
Shirley Canrobert	2-Oct
Lesa Spake	5-Oct
Jason Carter	5-Oct
Jolleen Christians	5-Oct
Mary Anne Wike	6-Oct
Brad Furr	6-Oct
Steve Miller	6-Oct
Hunter Winkler	7-Oct
Megan Herman	8-Oct
Tina Furr	8-Oct
Cindy Sigmon	9-Oct
John Allison	10-Oct
Beth Pennell	10-Oct
Jim Kent	10-Oct
Alex Price	11-Oct
Brad Isenhower	12-Oct
Gary Boston	12-Oct
Susan Matthews	13-Oct
Caleb Garrison	13-Oct
Cornelia Allman	14-Oct
Jenna Munday	15-Oct
Charleigh Bost	15-Oct
Briana Welch	15-Oct
Zachary White	15-Oct
Karen Starnes	16-Oct
Dianne Lawing	16-Oct
Jeff Munday	17-Oct
Delaina Bryan	18-Oct
Tom Considine	18-Oct
Gary Matthews	18-Oct
Stephanie Frye	18-Oct
Rachel Quackenboss	19-Oct
Wynn Ann Quackenboss	21-Oct
Micah Recker	22-Oct
Amy Matthews	23-Oct

Kathryn Opper	23-Oct
Duke Spencer	23-Oct
Mauri Burns	24-Oct
Jaxson Ward	24-Oct
Shay Baker	25-Oct
Janise Moretz	25-Oct
Sandy Gerken	26-Oct
Drew Lamb	26-Oct
Ruby Killian	27-Oct
Leigh Charles	27-Oct
Miriam Davis	28-Oct
Roy Sigmon	29-Oct
Larkyn Gerken	31-Oct
Edgar Mendoza	31-Oct
















Kendall & Lexie Hamm	6-Oct
William & Jill Adair	9-Oct
Jim & Shauna Kent	13-Oct
Don & Kim Hauser	19-Oct
David & Michelle Montgomery	19-Oct
Joel & Wynn Ann Quackenboss	23-Oct
Jeff & Karen Starnes	24-Oct
Mike & Ruth Geml	27-Oct
Nancy & David Kelley	28-Oct
Kevin & Teresa Graudin	29-Oct

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
		1 10am Christian Book Club - Library 5:30pm National Night Out - Conover Park	2 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 3pm Hang out with Mr. U 5pm Dinner and a Movie  5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	3 6:30am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 2pm Pastor's Bible	4 2pm Joyful Stitchers - BLCFM 	5 Lake Hickory Riversweep - BSA Troop 383
6 LWML Sunday  9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 10:10am Discover Concordia - Chapel 11am Worship & Communion 3pm Creative Haven 4pm Cub Scouts	7 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts	8 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 11:30am PrimeTimers - EM 6:30pm Day School Board - CCDS Library 6:30pm Elders - EM	9 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 3pm Hang out with Mr. U 5pm Dinner and a Movie  5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	10 6:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Pastor's Bible 6p Trustees - EM	11 3:30pm BSA Troop 383 Panthertown Backpacking trip	12
13 9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 10:10am Discover Concordia - Chapel 11am Worship & Communion 2pm Hunger Walk Registration  4pm Cub Scouts	14 5:30pm Assimilation - Library 6:30pm Scouts 	15 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 10am Christian Book Club - Library 5:30pm Mission & Ministry - Library 6:30pm Stewardship - EM	16 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 3pm Hang out with Mr. U 5pm Dinner and a Movie  5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	17 6:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Pastor's Bible	18 12pm Newsletter Deadline  2pm Joyful Stitchers - BLCFM	19 4pm Youth go to Scarowinds 
20 8am LLL 9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 10:10am Discover Concordia - Chapel 11am Worship & Communion 4pm Cub Scouts	21 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts	22 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM 	23 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 3pm Hang out with Mr. U 5pm Dinner and a Movie  5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	24 6:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Pastor's Bible 5:30pm Church Council	25	26
27 9am Worship & Communion 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4pm Cub Scouts 4pm Fall Festival/Trunk R Treat 	28 1pm LWML - EM 6:30pm Scouts	29 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting - EM	30 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 3pm Hang out with Mr. U 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	31 6:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Pastor's Bible	