

JANUARY 2026

THE FORTRESS

Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Preschool & Academy

DATES TO NOTE

1.7 . YOW! Resumes
1.11 . Voter's Assembly

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Swaddling Clothes

Sign-up or contact
Jamie Kotovsky

YOW!

Contact the BOE



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2025



Jim & Mariane Andrews: In memory of loved ones.

Sonia Johnson: In memory of Ron Johnson, Brett Johnson, & Jason Johnson.

Don Buechler: In memory of Mary Ann Buechler.

Carolyn Cattron: In memory of David Cattron.

Carolyn Cattron: In memory of Lucille Mowery.

The Erickson & Noard Families: In memory of Auntie.
In memory of Janet DeGerengel.

Janett Farnam: In memory of Skip Farnam.

Marshall, Karie, Taefyl & Maxhm Freeman: To give thanks to God
for the gift of family.

Linda Henry: In memory of Wendy Henry.

Linda Henry: In memory of Walt Henry.

Brad & Jessica Hull: To celebrate Kyler Hull's baptismal birthday.

Carlene & Sid Kemmis: In memory of Dolores, Bud & Jim Reschke.

Lynn Klavon: In memory of loved ones.

John & Pat Kohrell: In memory of our mothers - LaVerna Roach & Julie Kohrell.

Marta & Sylvan Licht: In memory of loved ones.

Dick & Rogene McMullen: To celebrate the the birth of our Savior.

Don & Barb Miller: In memory of our parents: Earl & Mabel Miller
and Ron & Mary Ryman.

Bonnie Myers: In memory of Mike Myers and Skip Farnam.

Nancy Rice: To give thanks to God for Jesus, my Savior.

Brian & Vicki Wahlheim: In memory of our parents Don Fleming,
Gary & Pat Wahlheim.

Bob & Sherry Wechsler: To give thanks to God.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR SANCTUARY BEAUTIFUL
FOR CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR!**



PRESCHOOL PRESS

From Mrs. Roberts

Happy New Year Concordia
Church Family!

We are blessed to enter into the
start of a new year in partnership
with you to share the message of
Jesus and his love with our
preschoolers and their families!

Our Christmas celebrations were
full of joy and blessings as we
focused on our Savior's birthday
and God's gift of salvation to the
world.

Our friends at Concordia Lutheran
Academy invited us to join them in
baking cookies with family and
friends. They also joined us in the
Christmas program, Someone Has
a Birthday, providing the narrative
and playing parts. We were
blessed to share the story of Jesus
with them and our friends and
families.

Our New Year looks bright and
are looking forward to the
good plans that God has for us
as we continue to trust in Him.
Thank you for your continued
prayers and support for all that
God is doing through the
preschool. You are a blessing!

Happy New Year!

***For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall
be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be
called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.***

Isaiah 9:6



OPEN FOR SHOPPING - JANUARY 8TH 4-7 PM & JANUARY 24TH 9-NOON

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Volunteer to help our community today!

Sharing the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

ACADEMY ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Mrs. Coppejans

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from CLA!*

December was a joyful and busy month at Concordia Lutheran Academy. Our students delighted in a festive Cookie Baking Day, working together with special grown-up guests to create sweet treats to share with others. We also joined with the preschool for our Christmas program, *Someone Has a Birthday*. In addition to our class party, our Christmas celebrations also included traveling to local nursing homes to carol and spread the joy of Christmas.

Winter story with a surprise snowball fight!

We really tried to live out this year's theme: Let's make a joyful noise! One of the sweetest moments of the season was watching students prepare beautiful handmade gifts for their families—small but meaningful expressions of love and gratitude.

We also finished the first semester strong, and we give thanks to God for the growth we have seen in our students both academically and spiritually.

As we begin the new year, we are looking ahead with excitement. We will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week at the end of January,

rejoicing in the blessing of Christ-centered, classical education.

We are also thankful to welcome several new students into our classroom family, a wonderful reminder that God continues to work and provide for our school.

As always, we are grateful for the faithful support of our church family. We continue to welcome classroom

volunteers and prayer partners as we serve our students each day. Your time, encouragement, and prayers are a great blessing to our school, and we thank God for the way He uses His people to support this ministry.

CLA Christmas Program

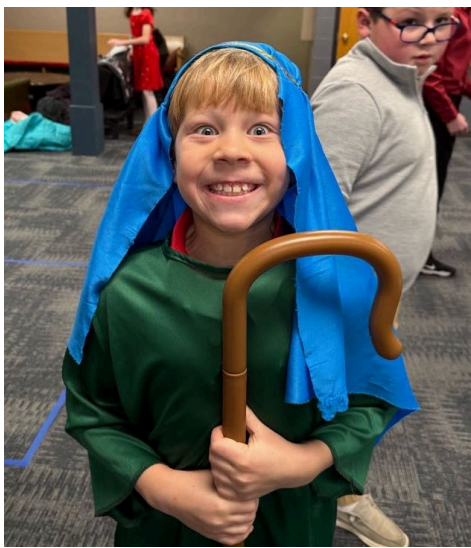


**Memorize a verse
with us!**

*Fear not, little flock, for it
is your Father's good
pleasure to give you the
kingdom. -Luke 12:32*



Thank you to everyone who participated in and helped with Concordia's Children's Christmas Program!



Concordia's LWML December meeting started with a prayer from Joyce Dodge. Our hymn for the day was "Away in the Manger". Sherry Wechsler gave us a devotion "In the Woods a Voice Cries". The minutes from our November meeting were read and corrected and approved. Twelve members enjoyed the day. Our treasurer reported a balance of \$1,696.26.

Old Business:

Linda Henry and Sonia Johnson is the co-chair for the Cookie Walk. Chris Grom is our new mail-box member. Welcome Chris. We have 47% of our district Mite Box goal met.

New Business:

In our new business we discussed the some of our January activities. At our January meeting we will discuss the ideas and distribution of the money that we made from the Cookie Walk. It will go to the different charities that our members vote for. We will send a \$100 to the Josh Bieri family new baby.

Some of our business meeting was not reported in order for our members to enjoy a surprise Christmas Party. Sherry Wechsler prepared a treat for all of us to enjoy and we played several games about Christmas.

Our Food Pantry donations will start on the last Sunday of the month January 2026 and the last Sunday of every month in 2026. This date was incorrectly published last month. The box will be located in back of the church. There is always a list of needs for the Food Pantry in the Fortress.

Mites and offerings were collected.

Patricia A. Kohrell - Secretary

In our prayers...

Concordia Family: Marc Motzer, Marcia Himmelman, Nash, Mary Miller, Joline Parrish, Lenore Vandevord, Jenni DeGerengel, Wendy & Jon Grunwald, Lola Helke, Roger Hull, Jackson Kinnard, Phil Jahn, Cindy Wagoner, Fama Prokup, Martin Fleming, Sue Smithson, Julie Kuse, Janine Persefield, Lois Misfeldt, Brad Watters, our inactive members **Friends of Concordia:** Angela Hull, Donte Nystrom, Renee Hull, Colin, Dan & Lisa Gordon, Tammy Bruns, Craig, Jim & Jennifer Garner, Jeff McQuaid, Tammy Sheldon, Barbara Sigwalt, Joe Moriarity, Debbie DelFiacco, Debbie Hardesty, Justin Rittenhouse, Megan & Daxton Crain, Ann Key, A.J. Gale, Judy & Gary Magnuson, Julie Fiers, Karen Wright, Helen Stewart, John Cross, John Gravitt, Tony Snell, Cameron Mayo, Joan Maier, Chris Frisk, Connie Wagner, Alice Wright, Stephanie Kursock, Joan McCarron

Our church workers. Our Synodical leaders: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison - Synod President, Rev. Michael Mohr - CID President. **Our nation's leaders:** especially President Trump and Governor Pritzker. **The Armed Forces, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.**

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact Pastor or the office. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or are admitted to the hospital, please call the church office. In the event of an after-hours emergency please contact Pastor at (309) 944-2827.

Please continue to pray for the mission of Concordia.

As Christian stewards, let us constantly be reminded and thankful that all gifts -

time, talent, and treasure - are gifts from God;

and be encouraged to use them in God pleasing ways.



Funds Status as of November 30, 2025

Approved 2025 budget is \$346,182

	OCT	YTD
Income	32,056.18	332,246.18
Expenses	35,215.79	322,554.54
Income Less Expense	-3,159.61	9,691.64

Odds and Ends - Some things remain the same but are important none the less!

Please put your name on pew envelopes. We want to give you credit for all your contributions on your year-end records. We appreciate your generosity to all the various missions/activities we sponsor and support!

Large Print Portals of Prayer are available to our members with vision difficulties. If you are in need of one, please contact Linda Hull or the church office.

Voter's Meetings - Become a voting member of our congregation and help make decisions for our church! The only conditions are being 18 years of age and a current member at Concordia. Please talk to Brian Wahlheim (Church President) or the church office for more details.

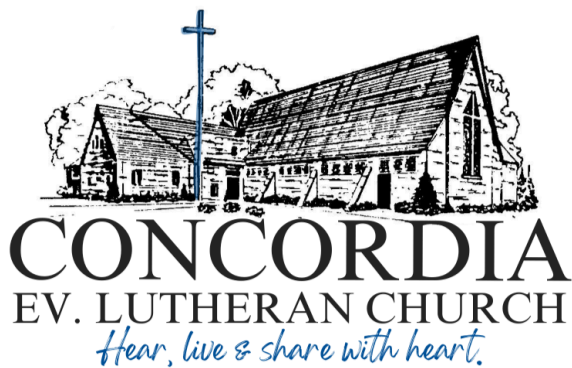
Next Voter's Meeting: January 11, 2026 - 1:30 PM

Remember: Please contact the office to inform us of a name, address, marital status, number, or email change.

If you admitted to a hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Concordia Lutheran or have a family member or friend call the office or Pastor Mueller. Otherwise, we may not be aware of your hospitalization. Thank you.

Check out the greeting cards in the display rack! For only \$1.00 you can get a pretty card for your occasion and the money goes to LWML missions.

The little House in the back of the sanctuary is a collection for A Dollar for Missions! What is A Dollar for Missions? The Central Illinois District (CID) encourages its congregations to invite their members to contribute one dollar per member per week for missions, in addition to their ordinary offerings. This kind of over-and-above giving is called "A Dollar for Missions". These gifts will aid the CID in caring for different needs of its missions such as university churches and student centers.



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 www.concordiageneseo.com

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Brian Wahlheim - President
 Allison Drockelman - Secretary
 Mindy Brown - Treasurer

DEACONS & MEMBER LAST NAMES:

Shawn Anderson & Brian Wahlheim	A-C
Mark Ouart & Andy Raschke	D-G
Derek Drockelman & Greg Wisely	H-K
Dick McMullen & Don Miller	L-N
Bill Kramer & Jeremy Dodge	O-R
Kenny Grom & Ryan Hull	S-Z

NEXT FORTRESS DEADLINE:

Thursday, January 15

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
 School Day - 9am-3pm
 Non-School Day - 9am-Noon

DIRECTORY

Rev. Stephen Mueller

pastor@concordiageneseo.com
 Parsonage: (309) 944-2827

Stephanie Prochaska & Allison Drockelman

Office Staff
 office@concordiageneseo.com

Amy Roberts, Preschool Teacher
 preschool@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Katie Coppejans, Academy Teacher
 kcoppejans@concordialutheranacademy.com

Mindy Brown, Treasurer
 bookkeeper@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Erica Johnson, Custodian
 custodian@concordiageneseo.com

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Every Monday (Sept-May)
 6:30 PM - Bible Study

Every Tuesday (Sept-May)
 10:00 AM - Bible Study

Every Wednesday (Sept-May)
 YOW!

3:30 PM - SPARKS
 5:00 PM - Breaking Bread Meal
 5:30 PM - Catechism Class
 5:30 PM - ROCKS

**YOW!
 RESUMES
 JAN 7**

1st Thursday
 6:30 PM - Board of Education Meeting

2nd Tuesday
 1:00 PM - LWML Meeting
 4:00 PM - Stewardship Board Meeting

2nd Thursday
 1:00 PM - CLL Meeting
 4-7 PM - Swaddling Clothes Open
 6:00 PM - Care Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of Jan, May, Oct
 1:30 PM - Voters Assembly

2nd Monday (Aug-May)
 Pastor at Circuit Pastor's Winkel

3rd Sunday
 12:30 PM - Board of Deacons Meeting

3rd Thursday
 6:30 PM - Church Council Meeting

4th Thursday
 6:30 PM - Evangelism Board Meeting
 6:30 PM - Trustee Board Meeting

4th Saturday
 9 AM-Noon - Swaddling Clothes Open

January Special Dates:

7 th	YOW! Resumes	3:30 PM
11 th	Voter's Assembly	1:30 PM
26 th -30 th	National Lutheran School Week	