# CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



Empowered by Christ's forgiveness,

We worship Him, praise Him, and study His Word.

We nurture community members, and serve mission fields.

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The Apostle Paul writes, "Brothers (and sisters), I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead. I press toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As Christmas once again comes to an end, we anxiously share the words "HAPPY NEW YEAR". As the new year is upon us it is good to ponder and discuss the interesting things that happened this past year. Yes, the good times, the not so good times, the frustrating times and the fun times. Prayerfully, we can learn valuable lessons from our experiences in 2023 and remember how faithful God was to us in the past years.

Once more we look forward with great excitement and anticipation for the upcoming year. We know we will have new experiences and we wonder what new lessons we will learn. It is all fresh and new and that should excite us.

In doing this, I believe it helps us to view each year as a season, understanding that God is Sovereign and has new seasons of experiences and new growth to make us more like Christ Jesus. Remind yourself this year that God is in total control and that we are constantly growing as His children and He knows the plans He has for us. Plans of new wisdom, insight, and understanding that He wants to impart on us, if we allow Him to.

He also gives us a fresh new outlook for the coming year. He enables us to leave the past where it belongs, not that we forget the past but learn from it and move forward. Move into our present and future with open hearts and minds to receive whatever God has for us.

With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,







#### STEPPP UP

Our Theme for the month of January is "MOVE"

#### Lessons:

January 3rd - No STEPP UP

January 10<sup>th</sup> – 3-Legged Race – Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

January 17<sup>th</sup>- Balloon Pass- The Exodus

January 24<sup>th</sup> – Camouflage – Crossing the Red Sea

January 31<sup>st</sup> – Backwards Obstacle Course – Jonah Flees from God Important reminders for this year's STEPP UP program

- Time 5:30 to 6:30 pm
- Our time together will consist of games, music, and planned activities (and of course lots of fun!!)

The safety of our kiddos and volunteers is still a top priority. Please be diligent to assess your child(ren)s health before bringing them to the church for STEPP UP. If your child presents with one of the following High Risk Symptoms or two of the Low Risk Symptoms, please keep them home:

- **High Risk Symptoms**: New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell
- Low Risk Symptoms: Fever, headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



## **Happy New Year!**

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1st.



### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet on Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm. All youth in 6th-12th grade are welcome! Bring a friend!

Check out the Youth Mission Table in the narthex—find out a little about our mission trip to Puerto Rico next summer and help support us if you can!

The Youth will be having a Lock-In on January 5th. Wes is in need of adult volunteers to help supervise this event. If you are even able to help with a portion of that night that would be great too. If you are interested, please let Wes know. <a href="www.wesaquice@gmail.com">wesaquice@gmail.com</a> Youth, please sign up on the Youth board if attending.

Youth Lock-in January 5th-6th 7pm-7am

Youth come for a night of fun and bring a friend to enjoy games, pizza, and a movie.

Come ready with a sleeping bag and a Nerf Blaster if you have one. I will have extra if you need one.

Looking ahead to the Super Bowl? If you want one less thing to think about, sign up for Pizza Rolls! The Youth will be selling Pizza Rolls to help fund their mission trip to Puerto Rico. Options include: cheese, pepperoni, and Sausage. For pricing, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex. Pizza Roll pick up will be available on February 11th after service.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas season. We are excited to be back at preschool and embarking on a new year of learning. This month we are talking about opposites and also arctic animals. Our friends will enjoy exploring the Winter Wonderland in our dramatic play center and incorporating some winter additions to our block center. We will be working on naming 3D shapes as well. Our friends will have the opportunities to utilize the amazing easels that our friend Gary Crow

made us and will create masterpieces with dry erase markers and paint sticks. All of these things happen outside of our small group, teacher work that will focus on recognizing the letters in our names and the names of a few other uppercase letters, hearing the starting sounds of words and AAB patterns (just to name a few!). We know that kiddos at this age learn best in play so we ensure that our classroom is full of rich play experiences for our kiddos to explore during our classroom day.

We are hoping to be able to share our classroom fun with some new families in the 2023-2024 school year and will be starting our registration process at the end of this month. Details on class options and pricing can be found on our website as well as the registration form when it becomes available. We will begin accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year on January 22, 2024 for our current families. New families will be able to register for classes on January 29, 2024. The registration link on our website currently is for this year and we will continue to accept new students as long as we have room in our classroom.

We love all preschool programs and really encourage families to find the best fit for their needs, but we do think Share and Care offers a unique preschool experiences. Our class sizes are small ensuring that students get plenty of teacher interaction time. Our 3 teachers have over 50 years of experience in early childhood classrooms and continue to educate ourselves to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our current students. Our program has been in the community for decades and while many things have changed throughout the years, providing play-based experiences in a loving, Christian environment has remained constant.

If you know of anyone who is looking for a quality preschool program and would be interested in touring our facility, they request a tour through our website (<a href="www.shareandcarepreschool.com">www.shareandcarepreschool.com</a>) or by sending an email to <a href="shareandcarepreschool.com">shareandcarepreschool.com</a>). We would love to have full classes for the 2024-2025 year and we appreciate your help in getting the word out.

Wishing you a year of blessings and thanking you for your continuing support of this very special preschool ministry.

## Celebrating birthdays in January...

- 2. Jacob Eilders
- 4. Maidaezia Davis
- 5. Alexander Fritz
- 6. Ellanor Robson
- 8. Nicole Minor
- 9. Roxy Smith
- 13.Jane Hess, Larry Lippman
- 15.Alan Kriegermeier
- **16.David Pearson**
- 17.Emmy Nolte
- 18. Christina Johnson, Mark Stauffer
- 20.Megan Bruner
- 21.Rose Boyd
- 27. Velda Feuerbach
- 28.Rylee Jaeger
- 31.Jim Pyan

