

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE DECEMBER CHRONICLE 2025

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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PASTOR'S CORNER



"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1)

It is Advent—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call "Advent" were just days and nights lived in darkness.

And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator.

This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse's tree. He is the Root of Jesse's tree. He is the Life of Jesse's tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse's tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth" (LSB 383).

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

"Jesus, The Seed of Jesse's Tree"

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

"Jesus, The Root of Jesse's Tree"

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

"Jesus, The Life of Jesse's Tree"

With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Brad A. Brown



What's Happening?



Supporting Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church "The Neighbors' Table" Community Meal

We are collecting food donations until December 10 to help support their December 18th meal. Requested Items:

Canned vegetables (Specifically serving carrots and corn, but any canned vegetables will be accepted and appreciated), **Boxed instant mashed potatoes, cans of gravy, and cans of fruit cocktail.** Please pray and ask God how you can help and consider donating what you can to support this wonderful ministry. Together, we can help Holy Redeemer feed and bless those in our community.

- ♦ **Saturday, December 6th**—**CAN/BOTTLE DROP** off 9-10 am. Youth, please let Wes know if you can help out.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 7th**—**Poinsettia orders & payment are due**
- ♦ **Saturday, December 13th**—**10:00 am**—**Cookie drop off** in the church kitchen.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 14th**—**Voters' Meeting** following worship service. All members are invited to attend. Voters' Packets are available on the Welcome Desk.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 14th**—**Youth Cookie Walk** following worship service. Be sure to stock up on homemade cookies for the holidays! Thanks for supporting the youth mission trip to Peru next summer.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 14th**—**6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party.** Youth should bring a gift to participate in the gift exchange, with the gift costing no more than \$15.
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 24th**—**Christmas Eve worship 2:00 pm** at King of Glory
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 24th**—**Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion 5:00 pm** at Concordia.
- ♦ **Thursday, December 25**—**Christmas Day worship 8:30am.**
- ♦ **December 24– January 2**—**Church Office will be closed.**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Making a comeback - THE WOMEN'S RETREAT
come spend a Saturday in fellowship with other women of the congregation. *"Beautiful Feet"* is

our topic. **Date and details to follow soon!!!**

January 2-3rd - YOUTH OVERNIGHT—6:00 pm– 8:30 am
Look for details to come.

*Merry
Christmas*
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**



As 2025 comes to an end, I am offered the opportunity to think back on all the blessings that God has bestowed upon Share and Care Preschool. First of all I need to acknowledge the congregation at Concordia. This ministry has seen generations of learners come through this program in the past forty years. Grandparents are now bringing their grandkids to our classrooms after taking their own children here just a generation before. That legacy is one that is hard to find in most anything these days and I think it is one of the biggest attributes of our program. Just the other day I was showing a new family our space when the mom asked, "Do you know how long this preschool has been around?"

When I replied that I attended here, she was blown away. She told me that her boss had told her that he attended here as well and she could just not believe that it could be the same preschool. Your steadfast support has unequivocally established a foundation of early childhood learning in our community.

Second of all, I would be remiss to not mention the incredible team that I get to work with. Spending my days with Shelley Gott and Laurie Weber has created a team like no other. When our HHS consultant stopped by for her annual visit she remarked on how truly unique it is for a preschool team to remain as constant as ours has. It is easy to do good work when you get to do it with amazing people and Shelley and Laurie are just that...amazing.

Speaking of amazing people, God has blessed Share and Care with an incredible committee of board members who show up in so many ways. Thank you to everyone who helps us structure our program and supports our efforts to ensure that we are continuing to do the best work that we can at Share and Care. Gary, Angie, Laura, Tania, and Wes, I appreciate you. It is also lovely to work in a building with other people committed to God's work. Kathy and Pastor Brown are the very best work neighbors. We are also so very appreciative of the work that Wilie puts into keeping our preschool looking its best. When you spend your days sitting on a floor with thirty kiddos who literally have zero sense of germ control, it is nice to know that our classroom is being reset to its cleanest self each day.

We are blessed with 34 kiddos in our program at this time and I cannot say enough about how amazing they each are. We have families who are the best partners to ensure that we are working towards a common goal of helping each of these little learners reach their full potential. We know that God has amazing plans for each of them and it is such a breathtaking thing to witness as they come into their own sense of self. Jesus says, "And whoever welcomes one child like this in my name welcomes me." *Matthew 18:5*, and it is such a gift to do so. It is easy to see Jesus when a gentle pat is given from one friend to another when tears are shed after a block tower is topple. It is easy to see Jesus when one friend tells another, "Good job!". It is easy to see Jesus when the whole classroom stops to watch a squirrel at the bird feeder or when those first snowflakes start falling. It is easy to see Jesus when hands are raised in praise and thirty little (off-key) voices are singing their hearts out at the end of our day.

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' time on Earth, we will pull out the Nativity sets here at preschool and we will hear one hundred different variations on the Christmas story, but all of them will always have the same message of love. Each preschooler will be amazed that Jesus was a baby. Each preschooler will be amazed that angels told shepherds of that special baby. Each preschooler will be amazed that God loves them so very much that he shared his only son with them. Thank you for sharing God's love with Share and Care Preschool so that we can continue to tell that story to generations who haven't heard it yet.

We are so very blessed. Wishing you all the blessings this Christmas season and into the new year!

Sarah Hoffman

Merry Christmas

Celebrating birthdays in December...

- 4.Landon Cutter, Keegan Oehlerich
- 10.Kalena Parks
- 13.Bonita Rimrodt-Primrose
- 14.Brylee Bruner
- 15.Lisa Jaschen
- 17.Noah Fritz
- 22.James Johnson, Dwight Oehlerich
- 24.Sharon Peters
- 25.Neil Buettner, Sue Cutter, Marilyn Junge
- 27.Kathy Terrington
- 30.Judy Oehlerich



Celebrating anniversaries in December...

- 1. John & Jan Sperry
- 9.Lynn & Sharon McCullough
- 31.Ed & Carole Pooch

