

# CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



## THE DECEMBER CHRONICLE 2023

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



*“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*

It's a wonderful time of year! We celebrate Advent and anticipate Christmas. It's a time of family gatherings. It's a time of gifts and presents. It's a time of giving and receiving.

What is really kind of strange to me though is this: I know that we are celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, but is it really that much different any other day of the year?

We should, on a daily basis, be anticipating the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We should be excited day in and day out about the amazing and wonderful gifts that God has given us by His grace and through faith created in us by the Holy Spirit. Each and every day is day of God giving us the things we need in daily bread and we receiving those good gifts with thanksgiving and praise.

This isn't just an Advent and Christmas thing. This is an everyday thing. While we certainly turn our attention to the fact that God did provide to us his Son as the sacrifice that would be given to take away all our sins, we should never forget this.

During this season, we can be focused on what has happened in the past, but let's not forget about what we are anticipating in the future too. Christ coming again, receiving the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life, and living in heaven with our brothers and sisters in Christ forever.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all.

With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,

*Pastor Brad A. Brown*



# What's Happening?

## STEPP UP

Our Theme for the month of December is "Escape from Bethlehem"

December 6<sup>th</sup> - Our message – No Room; Bible Story – The Birth of Jesus

December 13<sup>th</sup> - Our message – The Tale of Two Kings; Bible Story – The visit of the Magi

December 20<sup>th</sup> – Our message – The Great Escape; Bible Story – The Escape to Egypt

December 27<sup>th</sup> – NO STEPP UP

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – NO STEPP UP

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

### **Mid Week Advent Services**

Wednesday, November 29th at 7:00 pm  
"Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near"

Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm  
"Peace to All, Near and Far"

Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm  
"Our Peace Rests on Him Alone"

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### **Christmas Worship Services**

Christmas Eve—December 24th at 5:00 pm  
Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Day—December 25th at 8:30 am  
Worship Service

**Reminder - Church Office will be closed  
December 25-January 2**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## **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!**

### **Christmas Cookie Walk**



**Sunday,  
December 10th  
to benefit the  
youth who are  
going on the  
mission trip to  
Puerto Rico  
next summer.**

**SAVE THE DATE— Tuesday, December 12  
Texas Roadhouse Night** with 10% coming  
back to Concordia youth. Let your server  
know that you are eating or picking up food  
for Concordia youth to take advantage of  
this fundraiser.

**Youth Christmas Party—Sunday, December 17th—  
6:30-8:30 pm.**

**Please sign up on the Youth board if you are  
attending. Remember to bring a gift for the exchange  
& youth may bring a friend.**

**REMINDER— NO YOUTH GROUP ON DECEMBER 24th**

**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. [wesaquice@gmail.com](mailto:wesaquice@gmail.com) Youth, please  
sign up on the Youth board if attending**

## *Is it beginning to look a lot like Christmas?*



I feel like Christmas is sneaking up on us this year. At Share and Care, we have still been enjoying a lot of time in our outdoor classroom and we haven't even had to wear our jackets every time. Our pumpkins and corn stalks are still going strong and we just trimmed back some of our perennials to get them ready for their winter sleep. While we will be ready to celebrate Christmas when it comes, I am sure enjoying the extra time that is allowing us to move our bodies and enjoy the current season.

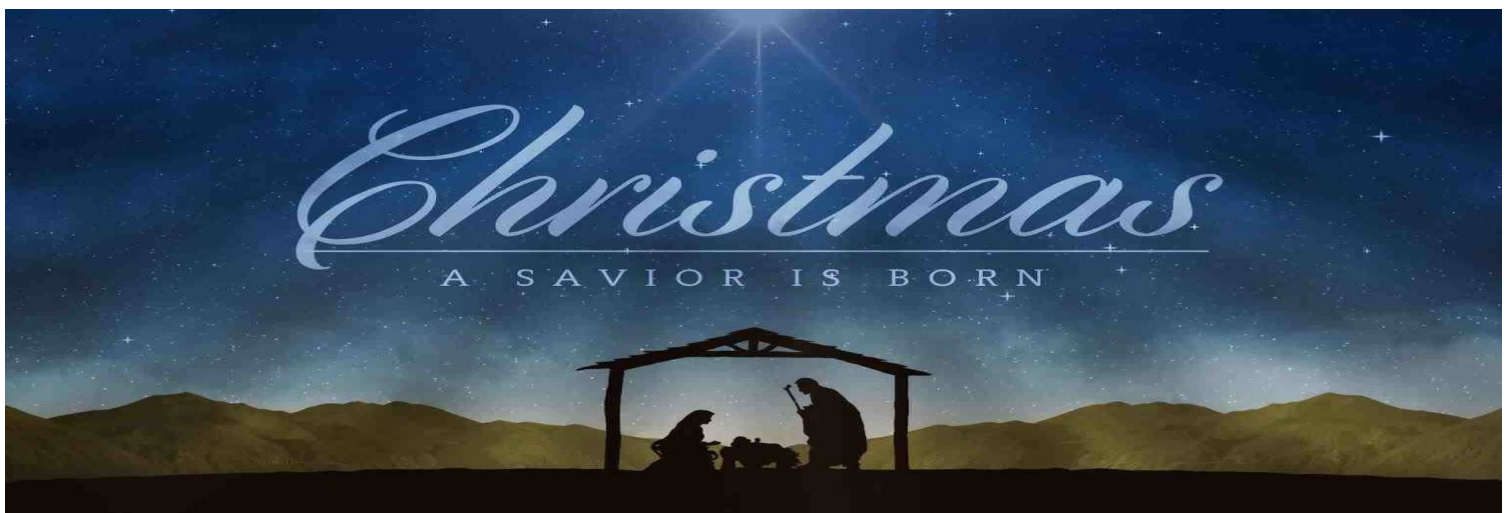
In our lesson plans, we are mapping out gifts to make for our families while continuing to progress towards our monthly learning goals. We will wrap our creations and tie them with a bow. Some of us will even practice signing our name on the gift tag before taking them home to share with our families. We will have our annual North Pole breakfast and will invite all of our kiddos to come dressed in those ever popular, Christmas pjs. We will explode with excitement if we happen to see a few snowflakes falling outside of our classroom windows and our table conversations will be full of elf antics and Christmas wishlists.

Even amidst all of that fluff, the true meaning of Christmas will resonate loudly and not just from our teaching staff. It doesn't take very long for our kiddos to become completely engrossed in the story of a baby, born in a barn. We will talk of shepherds and angels and our kiddos will begin to quote the angel's greeting..."Do not be afraid!" We will imagine special Christmas stars and we will love reenacting the story with our Fisher Price nativity. Our preschoolers just LOVE that baby. I love that it is this storyline that becomes the loudest during these crazy weeks in between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

When the world seems to spin a bit faster, covered in twinkling lights, glitter and a whole lot of sugar, Share and Care Preschool provides a routine space for our kiddos to relax, maintain our classroom routine and think about that baby. Thank you for partnering with our preschool to provide a ministry that provides comfort and quiet space for these Christmas reflections. It is sometimes hard to comprehend how a teeny tiny baby could have such an astounding impact, but when you spend your days with some of God's youngest creations, it is easy to see how much potential we have all been given.

With HIS love,

Sarah Hoffman



## Celebrating birthdays in December...

4. Landon Cutter, Keegan Oehlerich

10. Kalena Parks

13. Bonnie 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. Jan & John Sperry

9. Sharon & Lynn McCullough

31. Carole & Ed Poock

