

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE AUGUST CHRONICLE 2026

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



“And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

Matthew 7:25

Of course Jesus was teaching through something that the people would understand. He used the example of two men building houses. The first we hear about is one that built his house on a firm foundation. When the rain, floods, and wind came that house stood firmly because the foundation was not shaken or moved. The second man, however, did not build on a firm foundation, and when the rain, floods, and wind came, that house, it is said “fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Building on a firm foundation. That seems to be the key. The foundation for us, or at least a part of it, is certainly the confession that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and that through His death and resurrection we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. But along with that confession of faith, go the means by which God delivers to us His grace and mercy. The Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper, as well as reading His word and hearing it preached, are the ways in which God continues to build on the firm foundation which he has provided for us through His Son.

The building continues on a daily, weekly, monthly and annual basis. We continue to read and hear His word preached and receive His grace through the Sacraments right here at Concordia on a regular basis. This place is where he gathers His church on a daily, weekly, monthly, and annual basis, building each of us up, and forming us together as His church on the foundation which He has established for us by that gift of faith.

With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Brad A. Brown



Hi there, Concordia!

As we approach the beginning of a new year at Share and Care Preschool, I wanted to take a moment for my annual reintroduction. This year marks my 15th year as a teacher here, and I truly cannot imagine being anywhere else.

My husband, Seth, and I have known each other since third grade and loved growing up together on the west side of Cedar Rapids. After graduating from Jefferson, I attended the University of Iowa to earn my degree in elementary education while Seth headed to Iowa State to study chemical engineering. After we were married, we moved to Charles City, where I directed a Christian preschool in the basement of a Lutheran church and Seth worked as a process engineer.

In 2011, we moved back to Cedar Rapids and have loved building a life in the community where we grew up. Our oldest, Freddie, will be a sophomore at Iowa State this fall, pursuing a degree in music education. Finn will be a junior in high school and still loves playing basketball whenever he can, but he's also discovered a passion for performing in show choir. Our youngest, Tallulah, will be a freshman this year and loves the stage as well. This summer she performed in *Mean Girls Jr.* at CSPA and is excited to join JV color guard and show choir as she begins high school.

We live near Marion, which means I have plenty of time to enjoy audiobooks during my commute. I've read 61 books so far this year, so if you have a favorite, I'd love to hear your recommendation! As a family, we love cooking good food and spending time together. We also share our home with an elderly Goldendoodle, three cats, a few backyard chickens, and an ever-growing pollinator garden in our front yard. We love watching the birds, butterflies, bees, and every other winged visitor that stops by. Even the neighborhood deer, rabbits, squirrels, and woodchucks are welcome—we don't discriminate! Between cheering on our kids at their activities and volunteering to support them, this season of life isn't very quiet, but we are enjoying every minute of it.

I feel incredibly blessed that I once sat where so many of our preschoolers now sit. Share and Care helped build the foundation of my own faith all those years ago, and now I have the privilege of helping build that same foundation for another generation. So much in education has changed—and continues to change—but the feeling of this place has not.

While giving a tour this summer, a prospective parent looked around the classroom and simply said, *"I want her to go someplace that feels like this."* That statement has stayed with me.

Thank you for continuing to support a ministry that not only teaches children how to become classroom learners but also reminds them every single day that they are wonderfully made by a loving God. That changes everything.

Learning to write your name, count to twenty, recognize letters, and cooperate with your peers are all wonderful accomplishments. But understanding that you are deeply loved, created with purpose, and capable of incredible things because the same God who created the sun, moon, and stars also created you—that is a gift that will never appear on a progress report, yet will shape a lifetime.

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, we have **just one preschool spot remaining!** We have an opening for a child who will be three to five years old on or before September 15 and would like to attend our two- or three-day tuition program.

If you know a family looking for a place where children can learn, play, grow, and discover just how loved they are, we'd be honored if you shared Share and Care Preschool with them. You can find more information, along with plenty of photos from life in our classroom, at shareandcarepreschool.com.

We can't wait to welcome a classroom full of curious learners and spend another year discovering all that God has created them to be.

**Blessed,
Sarah Hoffman**

Celebrating birthdays in August ...

1. Randy Bramsen, Tom Wendel
2. Gary Liedtke
4. Kai Johnson
5. Keegan Bielefeld
6. Hiroko Welsh
7. Justin Schmelz
8. Titof Aquice
10. Pam Delaney
11. Judy Spratte
12. Bryan Cutter, Michael Cutter, Ryan Parks
13. Gene Marz
14. Doris Faas
19. Joslyn Bielefeld, Kylie Cooling
20. Laura Furne
21. Tania Johnson, Allen Schmidt
22. Shelley Gott
25. Crystal Peters
26. Wesley Aquice, Allison Fritz
28. Gus Worden
29. Chloe Woldruff



Celebrating anniversaries in August...

13. Bill & Debbie Settlege
14. Dave & Lisa Byerly, James & Tania Johnson
15. David & Julie Ekland
19. David & Terese Nelson
21. Don & Judy Spratte
23. Keith & Laura Furne
31. Jim & Kim Pyan

