Concordia Lutheran Church



The November Chronicle 2026

Empowered by Christ's forgiveness,

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

We nurture community members, and serve mission fields.

concordia@imonmail.com

www.concordia-cr.org

Pastor's Corner

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

I read this quote from Martin Luther the other day. It said: "To be convinced in our hearts that we have forgiveness of sins and peace with God by grace alone is the hardest thing."

I know the scripture verse above from St. Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus is one that is not only one that I am certain you are very familiar with because it foundational to the Lutheran faith and we have heard it, and probably spoken it or read it, more times than we can even remember. But the question that I have to ask myself, and maybe you ask yourself also is this. Do I live in this reality, or do I live in another reality?

We can be certain that faith created in us through the Holy Spirit has brought to us the gift of God's grace. So many times, though we want to be able to add something to it, something that makes us worthy of that grace and of forgiveness. Our hearts have been lied to and convinced that the person we are, this sinful wretch of a human being, is saved apart from anything we can do. So, we try to do something about it. We try to earn God's favor. We try to get on God's good side. We try to be strong and capable of doing it all ourselves. And with each attempt we fail because salvation has absolutely nothing to do with what you can do for yourself and EVERYTHING with what God has already done for you through the one in which you have faith.

Know this though - God's love for you is so immense and so perfect that he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to do the single work necessary for you to have forgiveness of your sins, salvation, and life eternal. That work was to take on all of your sin and take it to a place where sin and death were put to death, and salvation made the free gift of all those who believe. Not only is the cross empty, but so is the tomb. Your sins are forgiven as promised, by the life death, and resurrection of Christ. He is risen indeed and you are forgiven. Indeed.

With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Brad A. Brown



2027 Stewardship Campaign is upon us! We invite you to pray and reflect on how God is calling you to support our church through your time, talents, and treasures.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
— **1 Peter 4:10**

Stewardship Sunday will be on Sunday, November 1st. Please join us for worship and pick up your stewardship packets. If you would like your packets prior to this Sunday, they will be available to pick up on Wednesday, October 28th in the coat closet by 6:00 pm. They will also be available during regular office hours.

As you pray over your commitment, remember that everything we have is a gift from God, and our giving is an act of worship and gratitude.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
— **2 Corinthians 9:7**

We are blessed with many opportunities to serve within our church community. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents by joining one of our committees. We are always seeking volunteers for all our council committees, as well as Altar Guild and counting team to help with weekly offerings, and Committee Chairpersons to help lead and strengthen our ministries. Your involvement not only supports the life of our church but also deepens your own connection to our shared mission.

As we continue to meet the needs of our congregation, we ask that you deeply consider how you can contribute — through your time, service, and financial giving. Rising costs for ministry programs, building upkeep, and day to day expenses mean that every act of generosity helps sustain the good work God is doing through our church. Together, we can ensure that our church remains a vibrant place of worship, service, and hope for all.

Commitment Sunday will follow on Sunday, November 8th. Please bring your completed packets to worship, drop them off at the church office during office hours, or place them in the church mailbox.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
— **Hebrews 13:16**

Thank you for your faithful generosity and willingness to serve. Your gifts of time, service, and financial support make it possible for our church to continue sharing the love of Christ.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
— ***Luke 6:38***



youth group

Just in time for the holidays! Reminder - Butter Braids pickup is November 16th. Thank you for your support! Proceeds will go towards the next youth mission trip in 2028.

Attention Youth - On November 3rd we will be going to the Fun Station from 6-8pm. Youth should bring $10 for the event. Please meet at the Fun Station. If you need a ride please contact Wesley.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! **On Saturday, November 21st** we will have the next **family game night** from 6-9pm. Please invite family and friends. There will be a free will donation. Popcorn, water and lemonade will be provided. If you wish to bring anything to share that would be greatly appreciated. Everyone is welcome!



Sunday, November 18th at 11:00 am

Please join us for our annual harvest dinner which will include a pork dinner with vegetables and potatoes.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex to let us know if you're attending and if you would like to bring a salad or dessert to share.

Everyone is welcome!



REMINDER –
the church office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27.

Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!





"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — 1 Chronicles 16:34

It is such a gift to spend my life doing something I love so deeply. Choosing a career in education was a pretty easy decision for me in college, but I don't think anyone could have convinced me that I would spend my entire career in ***early childhood*** education.

I didn't know how much my life would be enriched by a gaggle of three-, four-, and five-year-olds learning to coexist in a community of their peers. I didn't know how much pride I would feel watching our youngest learners discover the power of their voices. I didn't know that such important work would happen while sitting on the floor. And I certainly didn't know that helping establish a foundation of confidence, trust, and love for our littles' educational journeys would fill me to the brim each and every day.

I didn't know, but I know that God did.

I believe God knew that the work we do in private preschool would require people who were not only willing to put in the effort but also had the heart to nurture these little learners. Shelley and Laurie are the best coworkers I could have ever asked for, and each brings unique gifts to our program that help make Share and Care the special place it is.

Shelley is a teaching ninja. She is already taking care of something before I even know to ask for help! Laurie is a preschool fairy who transforms our learning spaces into places that always feel new and exciting while remaining familiar and comforting. The three of us laugh together, persevere together, and celebrate the small victories together. Working alongside them is such a gift.

I couldn't continue giving thanks without thanking you, Concordia!

I don't think you fully understand how absolutely **COOL** it is to teach in the very preschool I attended as a child. So much has changed about what preschool looks like over the past four decades, but your commitment to this ministry has helped ensure that Share and Care continues to feel the same at its heart.

It feels like a safe place for families to send their children for their first educational experiences. It feels like a loving place where our kiddos learn that they were created uniquely and wonderfully by a loving and powerful Creator. And it feels like a community that recognizes these tiny humans are our future and that they deserve our very best.

Thank you, Concordia, for continuing to support this ministry and for being part of the great work happening at Share and Care. I am so grateful for the opportunity to do this work, for the people I get to do it alongside, and for the community that makes it possible.

With a grateful heart,

Sarah Hoffman

Celebrating birthdays in November…

1. Mary Buettner, Duane Schmelz, Mike Schneekloth
4. Joseph Peters
6. Teresa Myers, Cheryl Novy
7. Kathy Pettit
8. Kathleen Carnicle
13. Beverly Farris
15. Steve Seltrecht
16. Diana Stauffer
18. Julius Thornton
20. Barb Wichmann
21. Rev. Brad Brown, Pam Glandorf, Kent Lauterwasser
22. Don Spratte
23. Jim Welsh
24. Jake Scheck
25. Rev. Larry Schmidt
26. David Nelson, John Sperry
27. Lu Anne Reifschneider
30. Rachel Spellerberg



Celebrating anniversaries in November…

2. David & Barb Wichmann
13. Jim & Hiroko Welsh
19. Christopher & Kathy Terrington

