



Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Preschool & Academy

## DATES TO NOTE

- 9.3 . First Day of YOW!
- 9.7 . Youth Group Movie Fundraiser - 7 PM

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

*Swaddling Clothes*

Sign-up or contact  
Jamie Kotovsky

*Sunday School & YOW!*

Contact the Board of Ed

## WHERE IS JESUS “FOR YOU”?

*From Pastor*

Dear Hearers and Speakers of God’s Word,

*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise! Psalm 51:15*

Words originate from God. In the beginning God spoke. What God spoke, appeared. The words of God always perform. God’s Word has power. The words of God reveal Him, His character, His salvation. The lips of Jesus spoke the blessed words the fallen world needs to hear. To hear the voice of Jesus is to hear the voice of God.

Jesus has told His Church to speak His Words. His spoken word is to be heard, believed, and spoken more. So shall we pray, “O Lord, open MY lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.” What a profound part of our sacrifice of prayer and praise!

God’s Word is not a mere trifle, though. Because it always does what it says, we need to be in the place where God’s Word performs for us as He says. We need to be where Jesus is, where His Word performs for us in Church.

Now, some say “But Jesus is God and He is everywhere.” True! Jesus is risen and ascended and now fills all things! Yet we must consider, where is Jesus “for you”? Yes, Jesus is everywhere, even in the mud on the bottom of your shoe. But can that mud speak to you? Can that mud save you? Would you eat that mud for the forgiveness of your sins? Of course not! Jesus promised to be somewhere for you! He promised with His Word and His Word is made visible and tangible with His body in the bread and His blood in the cup of the Lord’s Supper. He speaks and gives them to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus’ saving, loving, and forgiving presence is for you in worship on Sundays (Divine Service), unlike everywhere and anywhere else in the world.\* God’s Word is the performative life creating, life giving, and life restoring word for you. Receiving God’s Word affects you just as His Word affected creation in the beginning: He made all things new and makes you new! As forgiven and restored creatures, God Himself opens our lips to declare His praise and speak and share His Word. Even more, He opens our lips to receive in our mouths (as soiled and dirty, vulgar, and profane as our lips and mouths and been with our words) Jesus’ body and blood, touching us with His Word and presence, forgiveness and life, in bread and wine.

\*this paragraph is a rough paraphrase of a conversation on the Facebook page of a fellow pastor

God's Word does what it says. Where is God's Word doing what it says "for you"? As He sustains and upholds all things by the word of His power, God the Son presents Himself for you in His Church, with His presence. It is supernatural, unlike anything else in this world. He opens your lips by His Word that you declare His praise, receive His Word and Sacraments, and are again made new as like the newness of creation when God first spoke His Holy Words into existence for your eternity with Him. All this He declares "very good."

*O Lord, my mouth is filled with Your praise, and with your glory all the day. Psalm 71:8*

In Christ,

*Rv. Stephen M. Mueller*

Pastor Mueller



## WHO'S IN THE PEW?

### *The Maholovichs*

Concordia welcomed LeRoy and Becky Maholovich by profession of faith into our church family in July 13, 2025. They travel to join us for worship from their home in Eureka, IL, about a 100 mile trip one way.

LeRoy and Becky are retired and are the parents of three grown children – Mark (47), Katie (54) and Kristen (42) and grandparents to six grandchildren. LeRoy and Becky enjoy walking together and family activities include picnics, blongo ball, pickleball or basketball with grandchildren. They also enjoy auctions and discovering new parks. LeRoy is a stereo buff, follows the Green Bay Packers and the Milwaukee Brewers. Becky plays keyboard and handbells and enjoys gardening and yard work.

Becky shared that she had leukemia and a stem cell transplant in 2017. LeRoy saved her life twice during her recovery.

Please welcome LeRoy and Becky when you see them!



*"Pew Ponderings" will be featured monthly as long as we have Ponderings submitted to Pastor. Anyone in the congregation may share their ponderings with Pastor, who will share and respond to it. All Pew Ponderings will be kept anonymous, unless otherwise directed. To submit your pondering, email your thoughts to Pastor Mueller at [pastor@geneseolutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@geneseolutheranchurch.com)*

**From the Pew:** Have you seen the variety of paintings depicting the beautifully set banquet table at the Feast of the Lamb in heaven? A favorite one features the table extending endlessly into eternity. The banquet is the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. The Lamb, of course, is Christ, the spotless Lamb of God who shed His blood for the sins of the whole world. Well, who is He marrying? Who is His bride? Good news, believers! It's us! His church! As His church, we will dine with Him at that beautiful banquet table for eternity! Ponder that and pray that those you love and care about will be seated at that table also.

**From the Pastor:** Many great works of art (and music!) are from Christians who dedicated their artistic talents for the glory of the Lord God (many Renaissance painters and musicians, for example). We get to share their artistic representations of God's mighty acts of redemption, Biblical stories, and Christian teachings through their works of art. We can even glean greater understanding and appreciation for God's wonderful promises through them. We can imagine our place in the paintings and how we might interact with the characters. Then, reflecting on God's grace and mercy, we can pray for others to be in the paintings with us—especially on the day when they are realized in God's time of fulfillment. Praise the Lord for the works of artists, that we on earth may glimpse the beauty of our majestic God with joy!





Concordia's LWML met on a beautiful hot summer day on August 12, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall.

The day started with a table prayer and a delicious dessert by Carolyn Cattron with the help of Linda Henry.

Joyce opened our meeting with prayer. Carolyn gave us a Bible Study titled "A Private Line" by Helen Mayer. Prayer is our private phone line to God through Jesus. We never have to worry if He will hear us or answer us and He always has time to listen.

Our business meeting started with roll call and we answered with "Tales of our school experience". Some of those experiences were so funny. The minutes were read and approved with one correction. The treasurer's report was given by Barb Miller with a checkbook balance of \$791.46. There was no correspondence received this month and Kathy sent many greeting cards.

LWML has donated the book "Seeing the Good in It". The author is Phil Zielke. It has been placed in the library.

LWML Fall Rally will be September 16, 2025 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island. The speaker will be David Ward. David is the CID Life Coordinator. The theme for the rally will be "Present in His Eyes". There will be more details to follow in the church bulletin.

Mite box devotion was given by Joyce and the mites were collected.

Our next meeting will be September 9, 2025 with a potluck at noon and meeting at 1:00. If you are interested in joining us we meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 or 12:00 if it's a potluck month. See Kathy Kramer or Joyce Dodge if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia A. Kohrell



**Thanks to a generous donation,  
the Concordia library has some engaging  
new books for you to enjoy!**

Three junior fiction books tell stories illustrating the first commandment and the first two articles of the Apostle's Creed. Also, two beautifully illustrated books bring several favorite hymns to life and Bill Bennerra - "The Book of Virtues" is a treasury of great moral stories. Check them out!

**Holidays are just around the corner.**

**Planning to give gift cards?**

**Order through RaiseRight to support CLA!**

Order forms are available in the fellowship hall. Orders are placed on the 15th of each month. Get your orders in now for Christmas! Do you need gift cards for groceries or other weekly shopping trips? Check out our on-hand supply! Ask Rachel or Kris on Sundays to see what we have!



**RaiseRight™**

**OPEN FOR SHOPPING - SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 4-7 PM & SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 9-NOON**

**SWADDLING CLOTHES**

**Volunteer to help our  
community today!**

Sharing the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

# ACADEMY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*From Mrs. Coppejans*

The new school year is underway, and our classroom is already filled with joyful sounds of learning, laughter, and song. This year, all of Concordia's children and youth programs are united around the theme "Let's Make a Joyful Noise" (Psalm 98:4). From the very beginning, we have been celebrating how God calls us to raise our voices in praise and to live joyfully in His Word.

At Family Orientation Night, each family created a "Joyful Noise" wind chime to remind us that, when joined together, our lives ring out in harmony and glorify our Savior.

In the classroom, our first days have been devoted to building a strong community rooted in Christ's love. Through stories, crafts, and conversation, we reflected on what it means to treat one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Starting with the book *Our Class Is a Family*, we discussed ways we can be good members of our family at home, our classroom family, and



Christ's family as Romans 12:10 teaches us: *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* Our "Class Family" bulletin board now stands as a daily reminder that we belong to one another in Christ.

We also connected with Jesus' words in the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31). The comical children's book *Do Unto Otters* helped us learn that we should treat others (even the new family of otters that moves in next door) with the kindness, respect, and forgiveness we first receive from Him.

As we celebrate this year's theme, "Let's Make a Joyful Noise," we invite you to help us make some "noise" about Concordia Lutheran Academy! Please share with friends, neighbors, and coworkers that Concordia Lutheran Church is home to our academy. Every word of

encouragement helps spread the good news of a school where Christ is at the center.

We look forward to a year of joyful learning, growing, and praising God together!

## **The Russell Klavon Curriculum Collection**

In memory of Russ Klavon, the Academy continues to build its curriculum collection. While many of this year's books have already been provided, there are still meaningful ways to help — from donating for curriculum posted on the bulletin board, to taping books, to keeping CLA's mission in your prayers. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support, and work as we prepare students for this life and the next!

*Memorize a verse with us!*

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord,  
all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and  
sing praises!*

*Psalm 98:4*





# Youth

# on

# WEDNESDAY!

**3x the youth.  
3x the Word.  
3x His grace.**

**Beginning Sept. 3**

## SPARKS

YOW! will kick off each week igniting the SPARK in our elementary-age youth! All kids and their friends in grades K-5th are invited to attend. From 3:30 – 5:00, they will hear God's Word through a lesson and verse, have activities designed to help them understand how the Bible applies to them, and engage in energizing games. This year we are putting the Bible to the test with mock trials in our YOW! courtroom!

## BREAKING BREAD

The importance of eating a meal together is something frequently highlighted in the Bible. Every Wednesday from 5:00 – 5:30, a meal will be offered to ALL K-12 youth attending YOW! that day.

## CATECHISM CLASS

Why do we believe what we believe? How do we know what we believe is true? Beginning at 5:00 with our meal and continuing from 5:30 – 7:00, Catechism Class answers these questions for 6th-8th graders.

## ROCKS

What gives us the ROCK solid foundation to boldly live our faith and explain it? Come find out! After our meal together until 7:00, High Schoolers will build on the teachings from catechism class. Group activities will be announced throughout the year – stay tuned!

## CLOSING

At 7:00 – 7:15 Catechism class and the Rocks will gather in the church for a closing with Word and prayer.



POP-UP  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**4 TICKETS**

Bidding Begins at \$200

Bids accepted through:  
Tuesday, August 26 at 2:00 PM

Email Bids to:  
[office@concordiageneseo.com](mailto:office@concordiageneseo.com)

ONE NIGHT ONLY

TO SEE

FIRST TIME EVER

# TIM MCGRAW

DYERSVILLE • IA  
28995 LANSING RD.

AUGUST 30 2025  
9:00 PM

## MUSIC LINEUP

1:00 - 8:00 PM

LOESS HILLS  
DANI ROSE  
CODY LEE  
TIMOTHY WAYNE  
HAILEY WHITTERS  
TY MYERS

FIELD OF DREAMS  
MOVIESITE

TM AND © UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

POWERED BY:

StubHub



# In our prayers...

**Concordia Family:** Mary Miller, Joline Parrish, Lenore Vandevoord, Elizabeth Erdman, Paul Mosher, Jenni DeGerengel, Wendy & Jon Grunwald, Roger Hull, Jackson Kinnard, Phil Jahn, Cindy Wagoner, Fama Prokup, Martin Fleming, Sue Smithson, Julie Kuse, Janine Persefield, Lois Misfeldt, Brad Watters, our inactive members

**Friends of Concordia:** Steve Lee, Dan & Lisa Gordon, Tammy Bruns, Craig, Jim & Jennifer Garner, Jeff McQuaid, Kathy Remick, Jayson Sheldon, Barbara Sigwalt, Joe Moriarity, Debbie DelFiacco, Debbie Hardesty, Justin Rittenhouse, Megan & Daxton Crain, Ann Key, A.J. Gale, Judy & Gary Magnuson, Julie Fiers, Karen Wright, Helen Stewart, John Cross, John Gravitt, Tony Snell, Cameron Mayo, Joan Maier, Chris Frisk, Connie Wagner, Alice Wright, Ed Schulmeister, Stephanie Kursock, Joan McCarron

**Our church workers. Our Synodical leaders:** Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison - Synod President, Rev. Michael Mohr - CID President. **Our nation's leaders:** especially President Trump and Governor Pritzker. **The Armed Forces, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.**

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact Pastor or the office. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or are admitted to the hospital, please call the church office. In the event of an after-hours emergency please contact Pastor at (309) 944-2827.

Please continue to pray for the mission of Concordia.

As Christian stewards, let us constantly be reminded and thankful that all gifts - time, talent, and treasure - are gifts from God; and be encouraged to use them in God pleasing ways.



## Funds Status as of July 31, 2025

Approved 2025 budget is \$

	July	YTD
<b>Income</b>	19,527.75	232,242.27
<b>Expenses</b>	33,989.12	200,744.28
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	-14,391.87	31,497.99

## Odds and Ends

- Some things remain the same but are important none the less!

**Please put your name on pew envelopes.** We want to give you credit for all your contributions on your year-end records. We appreciate your generosity to all the various missions/activities we sponsor and support!

**Large Print Portals of Prayer** are available to our members with vision difficulties. If you are in need of one, please contact Linda Hull or the church office.

**Voter's Meetings** - Become a voting member of our congregation and help make decisions for our church! The only conditions are being 18 years of age and a current member at Concordia. Please talk to Brian Wahlheim (Church President) or the church office for more details.

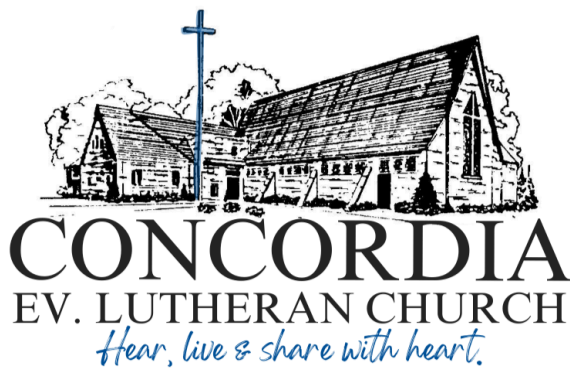
**Next Voter's Meeting: October 12<sup>th</sup> - 1:30 PM**

**Remember:** Please contact the office to inform us of a name, address, marital status, number, or email change.

**If you admitted to a hospital,** be sure to say you are a member of Concordia Lutheran or have a family member or friend call the office or Pastor Mueller. Otherwise, we may not be aware of your hospitalization. Thank you.

**Check out the greeting cards** in the display rack! For only \$1.00 you can get a pretty card for your occasion and the money goes to LWML missions.

**The Fishbowl** in the back of the church is a collection for the repair of our musical equipment. We are blessed to have wonderful instruments to help us "make a joyful noise"; let's keep them tuned up and in good condition!



316 S Oakwood Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254  
(309) 944-3993 · office@concordiageneseo.com  
www.concordiageneseo.com

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Brian Wahlheim - President  
Allison Drockelman - Secretary  
Mindy Brown - Treasurer

### DEACONS & MEMBER LAST NAMES:

Shawn Anderson & Brian Wahlheim	A-C
Mark Ouart & Andy Raschke	D-G
<b>Derek Drockelman</b> & Greg Wisely	H-K
Dick McMullen & Don Miller	L-N
Bill Kramer & Jeremy Dodge	O-R
Kenny Grom & Ryan Hull	S-Z

### NEXT FORTRESS DEADLINE:

Tuesday, September 15

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday  
School Year - 8am-3pm  
Non-School Day - 9am-Noon

### DIRECTORY

#### Rev. Stephen Mueller

pastor@geneseolutheranchurch.com  
(309) 944-2827

**Stephanie Prochaska**, Office Administrator  
concordia@geneseolutheranchurch.com

**Amy Roberts**, Preschool Teacher  
preschool@geneseolutheranchurch.com

**Katie Coppejans**, Academy Teacher  
kcoppejans@concordialutheranacademy.com

**Erica Johnson**, Resource Secretary  
resource@geneseolutheranchurch.com

**Mindy Brown**, Treasurer  
bookkeeper@geneseolutheranchurch.com

**Nicky Litwiler**, Custodian  
custodian@geneseolutheranchurch.com

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Every Monday (Sept-May)  
6:30 PM - Bible Study

Every Tuesday (Sept-May)  
10:00 AM - Bible Study

Every Wednesday (Sept-May)  
YOW!

3:30 PM - SPARKS  
5:00 PM - Breaking Bread Meal  
5:30 PM - Catechism Class  
5:30 PM - ROCKS

**BEGINS  
SEPT. 3**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
6:30 PM - BOE Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
1:00 PM - LWML Meeting  
4:00 PM - Stewardship Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
1:00 PM - CLL Meeting  
4-7 PM - Swaddling Clothes Open  
6:00 PM - Care Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Jan, May, Oct  
1:30 PM - Voters Assembly

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (Aug-May)  
Pastor at Circuit Pastor's Winkel

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
12:30 PM - Deacon's Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
6:30 PM - Council Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
6:30 PM - Evangelism Meeting  
6:30 PM - Trustee Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
9 AM-Noon - Swaddling Clothes Open

### September Special Dates:

9.3 - First Day of YOW!  
9.7 - Youth Group Movie Fundraiser -  
7:00 PM