

February 2025

The Concordia

Current

EPIPHANY

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1, NIV

Youth Group Ice Skating!!

The Youth Group has chosen to go ice skating in February. We are planning on Sunday, February 9th to head to Albert Lea and enjoy time outdoors. 4th through 12th grade students are asked to gather at 2 pm at Redeemer. Please wear warm winter gear and bring your skates if you have them but skates will be available at the rink. You must RSVP to Pastor Kristi or Kayla by February 7th so we know how many people and vehicles to plan for transportation. Invite a friend to join you. Parents if you are able to help with driving please let Pastor Kristi or Kayla know. Contact information for Pastor Kristi – cell - 507-360-1224 or Kayla Seedorf — cell 507-402-9790.



Remember the following in your prayers



Cathy Wittmer, Kathy Lutteke, Vicki Kuethe, Steven Hacker, Larry Henschel, and our homebound and nursing home members.

February Birthdays



Feb 1	Jay Johnson
Feb 3	Thomas Behrends
Feb 5	Nicole Brooks
Feb 7	Elliot Christensen
Feb 8	Amy Drescher
Feb 10	David Henschel, Lettie Wallin
Feb 13	Nordean Krueger
Feb 14	Thomas Kleinschrodt
Feb 15	Maurene Olson
Feb 21	Mark Krueger
	Aivin Wasmoen

The Concordia

Current

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun. Feb. 2	10:30am	Worship w/ communion
Mon. Feb 3	6:30 pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 4		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 5	5:45pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at R
	7:30pm	9th Gr. Conf at R
Thurs. Feb 6	2:00 pm	Bible Study at C
Sun. Feb. 9	10:30am	Worship
	2:00 pm	Youth Group Skating event
Mon. Feb. 10	6:30pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 11		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 12	5:45pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at C
	7:30 pm	Church Council
Thurs. Feb. 13	2:00 pm	Bible Study at C
Sun. Feb. 16	10:30am	Worship w/ communion
	2:00 pm	BERC Meeting at R
Mon. Feb. 17	6:30 pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 18		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 19	5:45pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at R
Thurs. Feb. 20	2:00 pm	Bible Study at C
Sun. Feb. 23	10:30am	Worship
Mon. Feb. 24	6:30 pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 25		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 26	5:45pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at R
	7:30 pm	9th & Mentors at R
Thur. Feb. 27	2:00 pm	Bible Study at C

Assisting in February

Organist Kathy Toenges

Deacon: Wayne Olson

Altar Guild: Donna Nelson

Banners: Laurie Behrends

Acolytes:

Feb. 2 Oliver Christensen

Feb. 9 Cortney Schmidt

Feb. 16 Open

Feb. 23 Lia Sorensen

Ushers & Readers

Feb. 2 Donna Nelson Family

Feb. 9 Amy Schmidt Family

Feb. 16 Chris Sorenson Family

Feb. 23 Ryan & Sage Wallin





Growing Disciples

Growing Disciples – Discipleship in the New Testament – a Bible Study on Luke -Acts

“What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?”

This study will seek to base an answer on the way Jesus interacted with his first disciples. We will focus on Jesus’ interaction with his disciples as it is revealed by the physician, Luke, in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In these sessions we will look at both the way the disciples first came to follow and how they grew in their relationship with Jesus.

The purpose of this study is to go beyond simply understanding Jesus’ ministry with his earliest followers. The goal is to look at our own discipleship in light of Jesus’ relationship with his first disciples. Even more, we want to discover how that relationship can grow in depth and practice as we follow Jesus.

The call to discipleship is an invitation to journey with Jesus. This journey involves many steps. As disciples follow, they move from an early childlike relationship with Jesus to a deeper commitment of faith and practice. Like a toddler’s first tentative steps, the disciples’ walk is not always predictable or necessarily in one direction. Some steps move the disciple forward, some backward, and some may not seem like directional steps at all.

The six sessions of this study invite you to a deeper walk with Jesus through an examination of six key components of discipleship — *Followers, Learners, Ministers, Living Examples, Witnesses, and Leaders*. As we work through this study, we will want to recognize the progression as one that leads to deeper levels of commitment. At the same time, we want to affirm the winsome work of the Holy Spirit, who always seems to delightfully surprise us by inviting people into the journey at different places along the way.

Join us at any step of our journey. The Bible Study sessions will be held on these days:

February 10	6:30 pm – Bible Study Session 1: <i>Followers</i> – at Redeemer
February 13	2:00 pm – Bible Study Session 1: <i>Followers</i> – at Concordia
February 17	6:30 pm – Bible Study Session 2: <i>Learners</i> – at Redeemer
February 20	2:00 pm – Bible Study Session 2: <i>Learners</i> – at Concordia
February 24	6:30 pm – Bible Study Session 3: <i>Ministries</i> – at Redeemer
February 27	2:00 pm – Bible Study Session 3: <i>Ministries</i> – at Concordia
March 3	6:30 pm – Bible Study Session 4: <i>Living Examples</i> – at Redeemer
March 6	2:00 pm – Bible Study Session 4: <i>Living Examples</i> – at Concordia
March 10	6:30 pm – Bible Study Session 5: <i>Witnesses</i> – at Redeemer
March 13	2:00 pm – Bible Study Session 5: <i>Witnesses</i> – at Concordia
March 17	6:30 pm – Bible Study Session 6: <i>Leaders</i> – at Redeemer
March 20	2:00 pm – Bible Study Session 6: <i>Leaders</i> – at Concordia

The Concordia

Current

How To Be a Disciple

Lent 2025 Dramas Series

We journey through Lent this year with a familiar cast of characters: Andrew and Mary, James and John, Thomas and Peter, and others. But their stories are brought into our contemporary world. What does it mean to be a disciple—to follow Christ—during Lent and throughout the rest of the year?

In these dramas written by John Wolf, these disciples will struggle and explore their call to discipleship. By hearing the stories of these disciples, we reflect on our own callings to be Christ's disciples in the world. How do we share God's love each and every day: at home, at church, and with those that we encounter? These dramas help us to see that discipleship isn't just something that we do, but is a gift from God.

Join the following pastors and congregations as we walk the way of Lent and explore the life of discipleship:

Rev. Dr. Jeanette Bidne, Trinity Lutheran Church, Blue Earth, MN

Rev. Josh Enderson, Hayward & Trondhjem Lutheran Churches, Albert Lea & Austin, MN

Rev. Matt Griggs, Central Freeborn Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN & East Freeborn Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN

Rev. Kristi Mitchell, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Alden, MN & Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickereel Lake, Albert Lea, MN

Rev. Peg Marose, Good Hope Parish of Bricelyn & Kiester, MN

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE for 7th, 8th, and 9th Grade:



WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS

SCHEDULE:

Feb. 5 5:45—7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr Class at Redeemer

Feb. 5 7:30-8:30 pm 9th Gr Class at Redeemer

Feb. 12 5:45—7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr Class at Concordia

Feb. 19 5:45-7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr Class at Redeemer

Feb 26 5:45-7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr. Class at Redeemer

Feb 26 7:30-8:30 pm 9th Gr students and mentors at Redeemer

Please contact Pastor Kristi (507-360-1224) if you have any questions about Confirmation.

Lent 2025

The Lenten Season for Redeemer Lutheran and Concordia Lutheran Churches begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th.

Concordia and Redeemer congregations will be sharing in joint worship services that will be alternating locations throughout the Lenten Season beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. Please note the following worship schedule of worship services.



Ash Wednesday Joint Worship Service on March 5th - 6:30 pm at Redeemer – Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

For our mid-week Lenten services, we will begin with a light meal at 5:45 each week, rotating the location of the meal and service. Volunteers are needed in each congregation to assist in providing the light meal (perhaps soup or hotdish, bread or sandwiches, chips, bars or cookies, etc.) Please see sign-ups at each congregation.



Wed., March 12th —Lenten Week 1

5:45 pm meal & 6:30 pm worship at Concordia

Wed., March 19th—Lenten Week 2

5:45 pm meal & 6:30 pm worship at Redeemer

Wed., March 26th—Lenten Week 3

5:45 pm meal & 6:30 pm worship at Concordia

Wed., April 2nd—Lenten Week 4

5:45 pm meal & 6:30 pm worship at Redeemer

Wed., April 9th—Lenten Week 5

5:45 pm meal & 6:30 pm worship at Concordia

Snow Removal Schedule

Date	Parking Lot	Sidewalk
2/3-2/9	Doug Kuethe	Bob Hanson
2/10-2/16	Danny Steele	Jay Johnson
2/17-2/23	Mike Krueger	Blake Mutschler
2/24-3/2	Bob Nelson	Greg Lutteke

The Concordia *Current*

Council Minutes

Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickerel Lake Council Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2025

Members Present: Chris Sorensen, Lynn Krueger, Amy Wallin, Chad Miller

Members Absent: Bob Wittmer, RaAnna Pestorious, Amy Drescher

Ex-Officio Member – Pastor Kristi Mitchell

President Chris Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Secretary's Report was given and reviewed
Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved.

Treasure's Report was given and reviewed for December 2024

*Total Income \$13,102.55

*Total Member Giving \$12,370.25

*Total Expenses \$12,278.63

*Total End of Year Income \$137,314.27

*Total End of Year Member Giving \$102,115.22

*Total End of Year Expenses \$

Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved.

Board of Stewardship was given by Amy Wallin

-Giving statements have been distributed.

-Offering envelopes for 2025 are being distributed as well.

Board of Education Pastor Kristi reported that all the students did a wonderful job of helping to lead the Christmas Eve Service. Thank you to Amy Wallin for helping to coordinate the students for the service.

Lay Ministry was given by Lynn Krueger

-WELCA and Altar Guild planning their cleaning of altar ware and candelabras on January 21st

-Ushers list is being compiled for February and rest of the year.

-Communion wine purchased.

Board of Church Properties given by Chad Miller

-Morrison Well Drilling has been great to work with regarding the water testing. We passed the latest water testing and we are good for now.

-The parsonage stove was fixed – a new computer board put in.

-Heyn Brothers needs our tax exempt form for the roofing project. Pastor Kristi will send that off to them.

Pastor Report

-Administrative Assistant transition is going well. Peter is doing an excellent job. Stephanie Johnson was been so helpful with training and assisting. Allan Wichmann has

been a tremendous help with reconciling the accounts and preparing the end of the year financial documents.

-Ash Wednesday Service will be March 5th. Council suggests going ahead and having a join worship service for Ash Wednesday and the weekly Wednesday Lenten services.

-Suggestion for Confirmation Sunday Service – April 6th. Lily Sorensen is our student being confirmed this year.

President Chris Sorensen called a motion to accept all reports. Motion made. Seconded. Approved.

Old Business

-A reminder that the Annual Meeting will be held on January 26th. All reports are due. Peter and Pastor Kristi are working on compiling the Annual Report. We hope to have it available digitally on the 24th. A reminder letter will be sent out to the congregation about the Annual Meeting and will include a thank you to everyone for attending the Special Congregational Meeting regarding the roofing project.

-Nominations for 2025 – Gordy Toenges has been in conversation with Council members and others regarding the current positions needed. Kris Christensen has agreed to serve in the Council Secretary position. Thank you to Amy Drescher for serving as our Secretary the last 2 years. Pastor Kristi will contact Gordy to confirm nominees for the Annual Meeting.

New Business – No new business.

Other

-Parish council next meeting 1/23/2025 at 6:30 pm at Redeemer.

President Chris Sorensen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made. Seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm

We closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Kristi Mitchell, acting recorder

Next meeting 2/12/2025 at 7:30 pm.



Hospice adult grief support groups

Available for either in-person or online Zoom attendance

If a significant person in your life has died within the past three years, please consider being a part of an upcoming six week in-person or online Zoom grief group. These groups provide a safe way to connect with other people who are grieving, to be understood, and to share needs, concerns and feelings. Grief Group participants should be at least three months into their journey with grief after the death of their loved one.

Spring 2025: Week of April 14th - Week of May 19th
(Make up session held week of May 26th)

ROCHESTER

Mondays, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. CST (time zone)
Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CST (time zone)

Mayo Clinic Hospice Office
4115 W Frontage Rd
Rochester, MN 55901

ALBERT LEA

Mondays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. CST (time zone)

Albert Lea Hospital
404 W Fountain Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007

ONLINE ZOOM*

Mondays, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. CST (time zone)

*To attend via Zoom you will need:

- Access to a computer with internet access, microphone and camera
- A private place without other people present because the conversations during grief groups are to be kept confidential
- An email address for receiving materials and the Zoom link



DETAILS

To register for a group, please contact us or use the QR code below:

(507) 284-4002
(800) 679-9084 (toll-free)
rsthospicebereavement@mayo.edu



Registration closes March 10, 2025

If a group meeting needs to be canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, a make-up session will be held the week of May 26th.

COVID-19

For the health and safety of yourself and others during in-person attendance, we ask that you follow current Mayo recommendations.

End-of-Life: Live and Unscripted

Presented by: Mayo Clinic Hospice and Danger Boat Productions

Location:

Marion Ross Performing Arts Center
147 N. Broadway
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Date:

March 27, 2025

Time:

Doors open at 5:30 pm
Performance 6-7:30 pm

Tickets can be reserved at no cost by
calling the Marion Ross Theatre box
office 507-377-4371

INFO ABOUT EVENT

Come have the conversation about
your ideal end of life experience you've
always wanted to discuss but maybe
never have.

- Facilitated conversations on your ideal end of life & how to support others
- Questions answered by experts
- Improv comedy based on topics discussed in the facilitated conversations
- Resources and subject matter experts available after the event



Questions about this event?

Contact Mayo Clinic Hospice
at 507-284-4002



Brenda Hartman
MSW, LICSW
and Bush Fellow



Dr. Ann McIntosh
Emergency medicine
physician with decades
of experience in critical care
decision-making



Dr. Cory Ingram
Award winning Mayo Clinic
Hospice and Palliative Care
Physician



"Hilarious, respectful,
and energetic!"

— Ben Walker,
Southwest Minnesota
State University

For more information,
scan the QR code



**Special thanks to Naeve Health Care
Foundation and Mayo Clinic Dolores
Jean Lavins Center for Humanities in
Medicine for making this show possible.**

The Concordia *Current*

Concordia and Redeemer youth had a blast during the January youth group event. Laser tag, bowling and pizza. Thank you to all the wonderful adults who volunteered to drive and chaperone.



Contact Information

Church:

69471 190th Street
Albert Lea MN 56007
(507) 265-3355

www.ConcordiaPickerellLake.com

Facebook @Concordia Lutheran
Church of Pickerell Lake

Pastor Kristi Mitchell

Cell: (call or text) (507)-360-1224
pastor@concordiapickerellake.com

Peter Scharpe

Cell: (507) 317-9127
admin@concordiapickerellake.com

Church Council

Chris Sorensen	President
Robert Wittmer	Vice-President
Kristine Christensen	Secretary
RaAnna Pectorious	Treasurer
Chad Miller	Properties
Lynn Krueger	Lay Ministry
Amy Wallin	Stewardship
	Education

Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickerell Lake

Church Staff

Rev. Kristi Mitchell—Pastor
Peter Sharpe—Administrative Secretary
Kathy Toenges—Organist
David & Michelle Masters—Custodians