

February 2026

The Concordia

Current

EPIPHANY

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

Isaiah 60:1, NIV

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 Hensche, Lettie Wallin
Feb 13	Nordean Krueger
Feb 14	Thomas Kleinschrodt
Feb 15	Maurene Olson
Feb 21	Mark Krueger Aivin Wasmoen



Remember the following in your prayers

Vicki Kuethe, Steven Hacker, Paula Devlaeminck, Mark Behle, the Mitchell Family, Erin Bremseth and Dorothy Krueger.

Snow Removal Schedule

Date	Parking Lot	Sidewalk
2/2-28	Mike Krueger	Mark Behrends
2/9-2/15	Bob Nelson	Greg Lutteke
2/16-2/22	Mitch Kuethe	Mark Behrends
2/23-3/1	Chris Sorenson	John Morgan

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Date	Time	Event
Sun. Feb. 1	10:30am	Worship w/ communion
	1:00pm	Youth Group Tubing, leave from Redeemer
Mon. Feb. 2	6:30 pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 3		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 4	5:45pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at R
	7:30pm	9th Gr. Conf at R
Thurs. Feb. 5	2:00 pm	Bible Study at C
Sun. Feb. 8	10:30am	Worship
Tues. Feb. 10		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 11	2:00pm	Bible Study at C
	5:45pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at C
	7:30 pm	Church Council
Sun. Feb. 15	10:30am	Worship w/ communion
	2:00pm	BERC Assembly, Ascension Lutheran
Mon. Feb. 16	6:30 pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 17		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 18	6:30pm	Joint Ash Wednesday service at Concordia
Thurs. Feb. 19	2:00 pm	Bible Study at C
Sun. Feb. 22	10:30am	Worship
Mon. Feb. 23	6:30 pm	Bible Study at R
Tues. Feb. 24		Quilting
Wed. Feb. 25	5:45pm	Lenten Meal at R
	6:30pm	Joint Lenten Worship at R
Thurs. Feb. 26	2:00pm	Bible Study at C

Assisting in February

Organist Kathy Toenges

Deacon: Wayne Olson

Altar Guild: Kris Christensen / Kathy Toenges

Banners: Laurie Behrends

Acolytes:

Feb. 1 Katelyn Schmidt

Feb. 8 Cortney Schmidt

Feb. 15 Oliver Christensen

Feb. 22 Madelyn Behle

Ushers & Readers

Feb. 1 Donna Nelson Family

Feb. 8 Amy Schmidt Family

Feb. 15 Chris Sorensen Family

Feb. 22 Ryan & Sage Wallin



ASH
Wednesday

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Lent 2026

The Lenten Season for Redeemer Lutheran and Concordia Lutheran Churches begins with Ash Wednesday, February 18.

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 February 18. Please note the following worship schedule of worship services.

Ash Wednesday Joint Worship Service on February 18 - 6:30 pm at Concordia – 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. February 25th —Lenten Week 1

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

Wed. March 4th—Lenten Week 2

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

Wed. March 11th—Lenten Week 3

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

Wed. March 18th —Lenten Week 4

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

Wed. March 25th—Lenten Week 5

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

Great & Faithful Women of the Bible

Women of the Bible



◇ Learn about an Israelite prophetess and influential judge – Deborah

◇ Do you know about the Queen of Persia that prevented an anti-Jewish massacre – Esther

◇ How about the five women liberators in Exodus? Can you name them?

◇ Where in the Bible can you locate Prisca and Lydia? Of what importance

are they?

◇ Who was the great-grandmother of David and how did she change the course of history?

Come explore the stories of these great and faithful women of the Bible. We will meet on the following days in February:

Mon. Feb 2nd – 6:30 pm at Redeemer – Session 1

Thurs. Feb 5th – 2:00 pm at Concordia – Session 1

Mon. Feb 9th – 6:30 pm at Redeemer – Session 2

Wed. Feb 11th – 2:00 pm at Concordia – Session 2 (note date change)

Mon. Feb 16th – 6:30 pm at Redeemer – Session 3

Thurs. Feb 19th – 2:00 pm at Concordia – Session 3

Mon. Feb 23rd – 6:30 pm at Redeemer – Session 4

Thurs. Feb 26th – 2:00 pm at Concordia – Session 4



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WELCA and Altar Guild Gathering



On Tuesday February 3rd the women of the church are invited to gather at 5:30 for

ALTAR GUILD

a pizza supper, followed by a time of cleaning the altar candelabras, communion ware, and supplies closets. Please let us know if you can join us for supper by signing the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Hope to see you on the 3rd!!

Women of the **ELCA**

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE:



Feb. 4 5:45—7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr Class at Redeemer

Feb. 4 7:30-8:30 pm 9th Gr Class at Redeemer

Feb. 11 5:45—7:15 pm 7th/8th Gr Class at Concordia

Feb. 18 No Classes—Ash Wednesday Service

day Service

Feb. 25 No Classes—Mid-Week Lenten Service

Please call or text Pastor Kristi at 507-360-1224 or email at pastor@redeemeralden.com if you have any questions about confirmation.

Lent 2026



Faith Maps: How our Faith Guides us in the Journey

Five pastors of the Blue Earth River Conference will share a significant journey (some geographical, some reflective) and what faith maps, traveling companions, experiences, and values guided them in that time.

Travelers and Congregations:

Pastor Jeanette Bidne, Trinity Lutheran Church of Blue Earth, MN

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

Pastor Matt Griggs, Central Freeborn & East Freeborn Lutheran Churches, Albert Lea, MN

Pastor Carol Mapa, Good Hope Parish Interim

Pastor Kristi Mitchell, Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickerel Lake & Redeemer Lutheran, Alden

Travel Plans:

Pastor Jeanette, journey to Norway and Germany and the journey of Abraham

Pastor Josh, journey to northern Minnesota and the journey of Jacob

Pastor Matt, journey to Slovakia and the journey of the Magi

Pastor Carol, journey to explore and journey of spiritual direction

Pastor Kristi, the journey of grief and the Journey of Naomi

Journey.

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11, NASB



The Concordia Current

Council Minutes

Church Council Minutes for 1/14/2025

Members Present: Bob Wittmer, Kris Christensen, Lynn

Krueger, Amy Wallin, Chris Sorensen,

Chad Miller, and RaAnna Pestorious

Ex-Officio Member- Past Kristi Mitchell

Vice President Bob Wittmer called the meeting to order.

Secretary's report was given and reviewed for December

A correction was made to add a thank you to Sandy

Morgan and Cindy Wichmann for their help

with putting together the hanging of the greens and meal.

Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report was given and reviewed for December.

*Income \$18,141.74

*Total Expenses \$16,703.46

*Net Income \$1,438.28

Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved.

Board of Stewardship: The budget has been reviewed and is ready to go into the annual report for 2026.

Education: The December youth event was held, 5 kids were in attendance, they made cookies and took them home to enjoy.

-The first Faithful Friday will be on February 20th, 2026.

Lay Ministry: January usher list has been created and Bob will create the rest of the schedules after the annual meeting.

Board of Church Properties

-We are required to do another four months of testing for the water due to us having one negative test in the last 12 months.

-The parsonage has been professionally cleaned by a company called Back to Sanity. The hoses have been replaced on the washing machine and the refrigerator. The water softener has been repaired. It is now move in ready again.

-A new vacuum will be purchased and placed in the fireside room for church members to use if needed.

-Lynn has requested that there be highlighter paint sprayed on the lips of the cement by the west door and possibly any other areas of cement that someone may trip over.

-The roofing company returned and put on the finishing touches to the roof, it is now officially completed.

Pastor Report

Pastor will be going on a personal retreat at the end of the month. There will still be bible study on the Thursday before she leaves.

-On Sunday February 1st, there will be a youth event. We will be going tubing at Mount Kato. Joining along with us will be Bear Lake and Redeemer.

-On February 18th, we will have a joint congregation service for Ash Wednesday at 6:30pm at Concordia.

-Wednesday Lenten services will have a slightly different format with the area pastors doing a round-robin and will preach at different churches each Wednesday, instead of watching videos each week. The first week will start at Redeemer. There will be 2 lenten services at Concordia, and the rest will be at Redeemer.

RaAnna made a motion to approve the reports, Amy Seconded,. Motion carried

Old Business

-The Annual Reports will be prepared and ready for the meeting.

-A new updated church directory will be ready to be handed out at the annual meeting.

-Mary Ohm has asked to have her membership transferred to the Vineyard Church.

-If there are any empty positions that need to be filled, the council will open up the floor at the annual meeting for nominations and they will need to be voted on.

-We will continue to not have a board of education due to us not having a Sunday school.

New Business

-Brittany Mutschler has volunteered to take a portrait of the pastor so we can add her to our wall. RaAnna will take care of getting the picture printed and framed.

-There is 1.5 acres that lies just north of our burning barrel that belongs to the church, that has been getting farmed and we received rent. That land has been transitioned to a different farmer, and it continues to be farmed. We have not received rent for this land, it was discussed if we should pursue collecting rent, sell it, or ask about possibly switching areas of land to add more land around the cemetery so that we can add more plots. Bob will look at the boundaries and measurements and gather more information to bring to the council for the next meeting.

-Lawn mowing rates have increased by \$10 more a time for each the church and parsonage.

Lynn called a motion to adjourn the meeting. RaAnna Seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned.

We closed with "The Lord's Prayer".

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Christensen, Secretary

Next meeting will be held on February 11th at 7:30 pm



The Concordia *Current*



YOU'RE INVITED!

Faithful Fridays - After School Event

Who?

Students PreK-6th grade - Redeemer and Concordia Sunday School students are encouraged to invite a friend to join them! The after-school events will be led by our adult leaders.

What is it?

Friday after school activity for students PreK-6th grade. After school snacks, activities, music, supper, and FUN will be provided.

When?

Friday, February 20th, Afterschool (3:30) - 6 p.m.

Where?

After school, students can meet at the elementary entrance and walk with our adult leaders to the church. Drop-off at the church, for younger students not in school at that time will also be available at 3:30 p.m. Evening activities end at 6 p.m. ~ students to be picked up at the church.

RSVP ~ Please complete online registration using the QR Code below to register.

Suggested donation is \$10 per child.

RSVP preferred at least two days prior to the event start date. Thank you!



Contact Information

Church:

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

www.ConcordiaPickerellake.com

Facebook @Concordia Lutheran
Church of Pickerel Lake

Pastor Kristi Mitchell

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

Peter Sharpe

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

Church Council

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

Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickerel Lake

Church Staff

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