

May 2024

The Concordia

Current

Summer Worship Schedule Begins for our Parish

We will again be having one joint worship service the Sunday's during the summer, and we will be alternating locations between Concordia and Redeemer congregations.

Fellowship will follow the worship services starting on June 2nd.

May 26th	9:00 am	Concordia
June 2nd	9:00 am	Redeemer with Holy Communion
June 9th	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion
June 16th	10:00 am	Morin Lake Days – Worship by the Lake (At Redeemer if bad weather)
June 23rd	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion
June 30 th	9:00 am	Redeemer with Holy Communion
July 7th	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion
July 14th	9:00 am	Redeemer with Holy Communion
July 21st	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion
July 28th	9:00 am	Redeemer with Holy Communion
August 4th	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion
August 11th	9:00 am	Redeemer with Holy Communion
August 18th	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion
August 25th	9:00 am	Redeemer with Holy Communion
September 1st	9:00 am	Concordia with Holy Communion

September 8th we will return to worship in each congregation on Sunday morning.

Seven Faith Practices

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For over 20 years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has identified seven faith practices that are key to the life of a Christian disciple. I share this article not only as information about these seven faith practices but also an invitation to develop these God-shaping activities in your life. Included in this article is information taken from the ELCA's website (elca.org). If you visit the website and search – seven faith practices or ministry practices – you will find a wealth of resources and materials related to this topic and the individual faith practices.

Faith practices are God-shaped and God-shaping activities that add up to a way of life. Faith practices come out of Scripture, but are lived out in the world. For those who want to become a part of the way of life called “Christian,” faith practices describe the kind of attitudes and actions that make up that life. In his book *Thinking the Faith*, Douglas John Hall says “a disciple is a learner who explores the meaning of Christ’s message. Disciples are people who want to comprehend that which has grasped them as their ultimate concern. Discipleship is a decision taken not once, but constantly renewed.”

Our Lord commands us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). As we are called to reach out to people in our communities, our neighbors, and the unchurched, we need to ground ourselves in the Bible, the most basic truths of our Lutheran heritage, and a daily life of following Christ. In doing so, we can energize our entire congregation to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others and to live out their Christian calling to the world. When engaging in faith practices, we seek to be energized by prayerful openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit and use the insights of Lutheran theology as powerful tools for understanding and addressing the needs of society.

So what does it mean to live as a faith-full disciple? What are the actions or activities that help shape disciples on their journeys? One way to understand those actions is to look at them as “faith practices.” Five key texts show us God’s vision for the faithful disciple in the Lutheran faith tradition. They provide the foundation for the seven basic faith practices.

The prophet Micah summarizes the meaning of the Old Testament first covenant when he asks: “What does the Lord require of you?”

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

Jesus summarizes the core of his teaching and his hope for his followers in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In response to the question “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus responded:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37).

Jesus’ parting instructions to his followers, spoken after his resurrection, were:

Go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).

Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, shared these words as explanation for the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed:

*I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death. **He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.***

For us as Lutheran Christians, the call to discipleship is grounded in Baptism. Discipleship flows from and is daily renewed in our baptismal covenant. From the address to those affirming baptism:

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- to live among God’s faithful people,
- to share his Word and share his supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Continued on next page

The Concordia

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From these biblical and theological foundations we have come to know key faith practices for a faith-filled life as a disciple of Christ Jesus. Followers of Jesus are inspired to develop practices and patterns for living that characterize a life that is devoted to **daily discipleship**. Seven common practices have been identified as key for us to model and nurture.

Pray → Prayer → Pray Frequently

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Study → Christian Education → Study Scripture Diligently

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

Worship → Worship → Worship Regularly

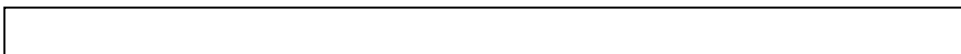
I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together (Psalm 34:1-3).

Invite → Evangelism → Invite Others Often

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15).

Encourage → Teaching/Mentoring → Pass on the Faith

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action (1 John 3:18).



For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Give → Stewardship → Give Freely

"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6: 38).

May God provide for each of us, his children, a good measure of wisdom and discipline in order that we might faithfully practice our God-shaping activities each day of our lives.

In His Peace,

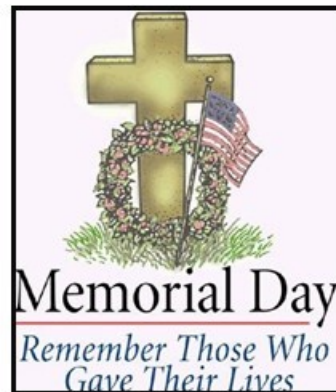
Pastor Kristi

**Pentecost Sunday is May 19th at
10:30am**

Plan to WEAR RED to
Celebrate the Day.



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4



Memorial Day
*Remember Those Who
Gave Their Lives*

**Memorial Day
May 27th**

The Concordia

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Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Wed. May 1	6:00 pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at R
Thurs. May 2	1:30pm	Session 3 - Exploring Romans at C
Sun. May 5	10:30am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Mon. May 6	6:30pm	Session 4—Exploring Romans at R
Tues. May 7	9:00am	Quilting
Wed. May 8	6:00pm	Faith Night Preschool - 6th Gr.
	6:00pm	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at C
	7:30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thurs. May 9	1:30pm	Session 4—Exploring Romans at C
Sun. May 12	10:30am	Worship
Mon. May 13	6:30pm	Session 5—Exploring Romans at R
Tues. May 14	9:00am	Quilting
Thurs. May 16	1:30pm	Session 5—Exploring Romans at C
Sun. May 19	10:30am	Worship w/Holy Communion and Blessing of Graduates
Mon. May 20	6:30pm	Session 6—Exploring Romans at R
Tues. May 21	9:00am	Quilting
Thurs. May 23	1:30pm	Session 6—Exploring Romans at C
Sun. May 26	9:00am	Worship at C
Tues. May 28	9:00 am	Quilting

New Office Hours

Starting May 1st, 2024,
Office Hours Will be:

Tuesdays: 2pm – 4pm
Thursdays: 8:30am – 11:30am

Assisting in May

Organist Kathy Toenges

Deacon: Wayne Olson

Altar Guild: Sandy Morgan / Amy Drescher

Banners: RaAnna Pectorious

Acolytes:

May 5 Landon Walters

May 12 Cortney Schmidt

May 19 Lily Sorensen

Ushers & Readers

May 5 Allison Morrison Family

May 12 Sandy Morgan Family

May 19 Dan Schmidt Family

May 26 Amy Drescher Family



Financial Update as of 4.25.24

Average budgeted monthly expense are
\$9,205 (Seasonal Exceptions)

March Total Offering—\$7,138.46

March Total Expenses— \$11,294.09

Year to Date Total Offering – \$33,693.28

Year to Date Total Expenses - \$39,460.99

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support! We are very grateful for your faithful giving.

The Concordia

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May Birthdays



May 2	Matthew Fethke
May 3	Judy Beck Philip Schmidt
May 4	Spencer Wallin
May 5	Chad Miller Tripp Mutschler
May 6	Robert Nelson
May 7	Sandra Heine Daniel Richter
May 8	Randy Tomschin
May 9	Ryder Ball Kinsley Ball
May 11	Edyth Hartman
May 12	Alex Bendickson Althea Tenold
May 20	Kyle Johnson
May 21	Dakota Richter Everett Richter
May 22	Shane Christensen Barbara Grunzke Eli Krueger
May 23	Derek Miller
May 25	Stephanie Johnson Amelia Behle
May 27	Amanda Hensche Ashley Madrigal
May 31	Marlyns Steele

Exploring Romans



Paul's letter to the Romans is quite different than any of his other letters, in which he offers pastoral or theological advice to people he knows personally. Paul did not start or plant the church in Rome. In fact at the time the letter was written, Paul had not yet visited Rome. Therefore, in Romans Paul offers more "general" statements about the nature of sin, the promise of salvation, and the call to mission. In other words, Paul addresses many of the important questions that arise when one considers the relationship between God and creation.

We will explore the letter to the Romans in 6 sessions.

Session 3—"If what I do doesn't save me, does it matter how I live?"

May 2nd—1:30 pm at Concordia

Session 4—"Where is God when we suffer?"

May 6th—6:30 pm at Redeemer

May 9th—1:30 pm at Concordia

Session 5—"How can I keep from singing?"

May 13th—6:30 pm at Redeemer

May 16th—1:30 pm at Concordia

Session 6—"What does God want from us?"

May 20th—6:30 pm at Redeemer

May 23rd—1:30 pm at Concordia



May Anniversaries

May 1	Melissa & Shane Bundy
May 2	Eric & Michelle Willey
May 12	Allan & Cindy Wichmann
May 18	Paul & Susan Kleinschrodt
May 24	Richard & Susan Hoium

Remember the following in your prayers



Lori Ladwig, Steve Hacker, Larry Hensche, and Pat Nelson.

Pastor Kristi along with

**Greg & Kathy Lutteke will be attending
the Synod Assembly**

Saturday, May 11th in Mankato!

The Concordia

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CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE:

Wed. May 1 6pm 7th & 8th Gr. Class at R.
Wed. May 8 6pm Last confirmation class—picnic
& games at Concordia

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



Summer Worship – Fellowship Sign-up Sheet for Concordia

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to either sponsor
and/or serve donuts and refreshments after worship on
the Sunday when services are at Concordia.

Stephanie will take care of putting in the order to Kwik
Trip on Front Street in Albert Lea. Stephanie will also
pay for the order and send a copy of the receipt to the
server that week! Servers need to
pick up the order at 8:00am Sunday
morning.



VBS Registration Information

JUNE 16th - 19th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

All kids preschool through 6th are invited to participate
(older kids are welcome to volunteer)

*Registration Deadline is May 29, 2024

*Registration Fee is \$20 per kid or \$50 for a family
(scholarships are available, talk with Amy Schmidt)

*Payments can be written out to Concordia Pickerel
Lake, you can mail or drop at church

*Program on June 19, 2024

Look for a separate VBS email and on our Facebook
page for the registration link!

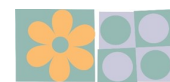


Blessing of our Graduates



**May 19th—10:30am Worship with
Communion**

Please join us for our next
Wednesday Faith Night for
students in preschool through 6th
grade. We will gather on
Wednesday, May 8th at 6:00 pm
for a picnic supper and outdoor
games!



WEDNESDAY

**FAITH
NIGHT**

The Concordia

Current

A Message from the Church Deacons

The Deacons are adapting a new procedure to develop the usher/reader list for the church year. In conjunction with the Altar Guild and Acolyte schedules, the list has been developed with names and phone numbers for the Sundays in each month.

If the assigned date doesn't work, please arrange a trade for another date that'll work with someone else, preferably from your months.

We have more Sundays than available people, so your name will be on the list multiple times.

May

5th	Allison Morrison Family	Allison	507-383.-8571
12th	Sandy Morgan Family	Sandy	507-440-8415
19th	Dan Schmidt Family	Dan	612-418-2757
26th	Amy Drescher Family	Amy	507-383-9581

June

9th	Lynn Krueger & Kandee Petersen	Lynn	507-383-8496
23rd	Paige Bangert Family	Lowell	507-391-4047

July

7th	Cindy Wichmann Family	Cindy	507-402-8202
21st	Cathy Wittmer Family	Cathy	507-456-3324

August

4th	Sue Kleinschrodt Family	Sue	507-402-5431
18th	Amy Wallin Family	Amy	507-383-6990

September

1st	Chris Sorensen Family	Chris	507-402-4836
8th	Jane Schmidt Family	Jane	507-279-3798
15th	Laurie Behrends Family	Laurie	507-369-4642
22nd	RaAnna Pestorious Family	RaAnna	507-402-8071
29th	Donna Nelson Family	Donna	507-383-2075

October

6th	Allison Morrison Family	Allison	507-383-8571
13th	Sandy Morgan Family	Sandy	507-440-8415
20th	Julie Reindal Family	Julie	507-383-3921
27th	Cathy Wittmer Family	Cathy	507-369-3664

November

3rd	Wyatt Ladwig	Wyatt	507-402-7559
10th	Kathy Lutteke Family	Kathy	507-391-0086
17th	Amy Wallin Family	Amy	507-383-6990
24th	Amy Schmidt Family	Amy	507-469-2313

December

1st	Kristine Christensen Family	Kristine	507-402-1530
8th	Jo Sorensen Family	Jo	507-383-0639
15th	Chris Sorensen Family	Chris	507-402-4836
22nd	Jenni Miller Family	Jenni	507-402-1470
29th	Lynn Krueger, Donna Nelson	Lynn	507-383-8496

Council Minutes

The Concordia Church council met on Wednesday April 10, 2024 at 7:30pm.

Vice President Robert Wittmer called the meeting to order.

Secretary's report was given via email and reviewed.

Treasurer's Report was given via emailed and reviewed.

* **Total income of \$27,404.54**

* **Total Member Giving 26,337.78**

* **Total Expenses of \$30,863.10**

Board of Stewardship was given by Amy Wallin

Nothing to report.

Board of Education

Final Faith Night is on May 8, 2024

VBS Dates June 16-19 2024 at Conger/Concordia

VBS Dates June 9-11, 2024 at Redeemer

Board of Lay Ministry was given by Lynn Krueger

Bob Nelson completed usher list for June, July, Aug, members will be notified.

Board of Church Properties was given by Chad Miller

LED light has been installed at the bottom of the steps by the kitchen.

Church clean-up date on April 13, 2024 starting at 9:00 am.

Pastor's Report

Continuing Education –Sabbath Retreat April 18-23, 2024

Confirmation Sunday April 28, 2024

Honoring Graduates on May 19, 2024

Synod Assembly May 11, 2024 in Mankato Bible study going well.

Altar Guild will now have some gluten free wafers available for members during communion.

Vice President Robert Wittmer called for motion to accept all reports. Amy Wallin made a motion to accept all reports. Lynn Krueger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Summer Worship will begin on May 26, 2024 at Concordia at 9:00 am alternating Sundays with Redeemer Lutheran Church. Fellowship will follow services starting on June 2, 2024.

Stephanie will be on vacation on June 2-16, 2024.

Parish council members this year are Robert Wittmer, Chis Sorensen, Lynn Krueger next meeting is on April 24, 2024 7:30 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

New Business:

Tuesday morning office hours are changed to Tuesday afternoon 2 – 4 pm.

Sign up for Fellow Servers for Sundays in the summer.

President Chris Sorensen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. RaAnna Pectorious made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice president Robert Wittmer seconded it. Motion carried.

We closed with “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Respectfully Submitted. Amy Drescher

Members present: Present Chris Sorensen, Vice President Robert Wittmer, Ranna Pectorious, Lynn Krueger, Amy Wallin, Chad Miller, Amy Drescher, Pastor Kristi Mitchell
Members Absent: None

Next meeting is May 8 at 7:30 pm.



The Concordia *Current*

Graduate Information



Maddox Christensen

Maddox is graduating from Alden-Conger High School.



His open house is on Friday, May 31st from 8-11pm following graduation at his home 18788 680th Ave., Alden.



Alyssa Kuethe

Alyssa is graduating from Alden-Conger High School.



Her open house is on Saturday, June 1st from 1-4pm at her home 65497 170th Ave., Alden.



Kylei Ludvik

Kylei is graduating from Alden-Conger High School.

Her open house is on Saturday, June 1st from 2-5p, at her home 23359 640th Ave, Alden.



Ellen Merkouris

Ellen is graduating from Alden-Conger High School.

Her open house is on Sunday, June 2nd from 10am-1pm at her home 18102 690th Ave., Alden.

The Concordia *Current*



Kayla Thunstedt

Kayla will be attending South Dakota State University to major in Nursing



Lindsay Thunstedt

Lindsay will be attending the University of Wisconsin River Falls to major in Elementary Education



Kayla and Lindsay are graduating from Alden-Conger High School.

Their open house is on Sunday, June 9th from 10am-1pm at Alden City Hall, 174 N. Broadway, Alden

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

Stephanie Johnson:

admin@concordiapickerellake.com
Cell: (507) 402-7437

Church Council

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

Concordia Lutheran Church of Pickerel Lake

Church Staff

Rev. Kristi Mitchell—Pastor

Stephanie L. Johnson—Administrative Secretary

Kathy Toenges—Organist

David & Michelle Masters—Custodians