

# Concordia Newsletter

## February 2026

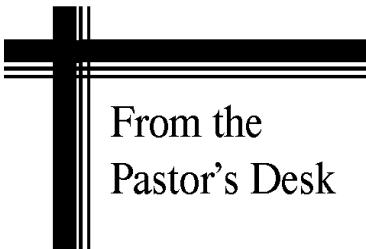
Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School  
216 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. Conover, NC 28613  
Church 828.464.3324 | School 828.464.3011  
Rev. Michael Geml, Sr. Pastor 828.464.3324 x303 | C 517.395.8422  
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Church website: <https://www.concordianc.org>  
Church office email: sharman@concordianc.org



*Shaped by Christ...  
to Share His Love!*

### Worship Times

Sunday 9:00a Contemporary  
Sunday 11:00a Traditional



From the  
Pastor's Desk

### **ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE**

We all have likes and dislikes. At the risk of offending some music lovers, I have never been a fan of the Beatles. John, Paul, George and Richard (Ringo's real name) started the British invasion, and they have had as much influence on music and culture as just about anyone we could name. So, given my previously stated opinion on the Fab Five, you may rightly ask, why would I title this article, "All you need is love." For at least two reasons. First, smack dab in the middle of the month of February is the day of love, Valentine's Day. For all of you romantic types, take note that Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday. (This is not a legitimate excuse for missing Church on Sunday). The second reason for this article's title is February 18<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. "What does Lent have to do with love?" I'm glad you asked. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). The season of Lent leads us on a journey to the greatest love ever seen. On Good Friday Jesus lays down His life for you. The theme for this Holy Season is simply Repentance. So come for worship on Ash Wednesday and begin the

season in true repentance. Come and worship with your Concordia family at our midweek Lenten services and see the cross drawing nearer. With repentant heart as we journey to the cross you will see that the love of God in Christ Jesus is all you need.

Pastor Geml



**The Voters' Assembly that was scheduled for February 1 has been canceled. Church Council will reschedule the meeting for another time.**



## Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

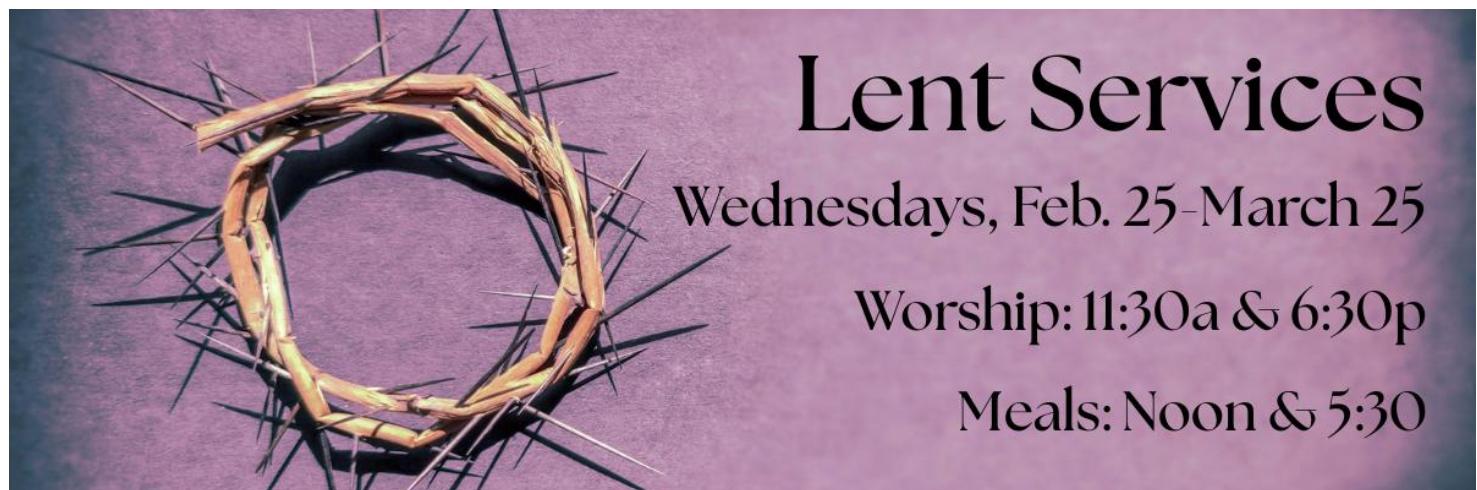
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Ash Wednesday  
February 18th  
Worship at 11:30a and 6:30p

### TIME FOR A LITTLE R&R

Instead of the traditional Rest and Relaxation, the R&R for the upcoming season of Lent is Reflections on Repentance. The theme is borrowed from a Lenten Series produced by Northwestern Publishing and is based on Psalm 51. The theme is borrowed but the midweek services and the messages will originate from Concordia Lutheran Church. In his first of his 95 Theses, Martin Luther wrote, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Psalm 51 is a masterful example of Biblical repentance. Until that time when either our Lord returns or we are taken to His nearer presence every believer needs to hear and heed the call to repent! Please prayerfully consider the opportunity the Lord sets before you to come and worship during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the Holy Season of repentance.





**Hospital/Outpatient:** Don Beal, Marigene Matthews, Kelli Kaylor, Opie Williams.

**Sympathy to:** Dwight & Shirley Brooks upon the death of their son, David.

**Other Prayer Needs:** Our church and school staff and students; School building restoration after the fire; The unchurched in our area and throughout the world; Our church & school; Church leadership; Peace; Our national and world leaders; People in Ukraine; World Hunger Crisis; Marriages; Sudan; War in Israel.



The Prime Timers meeting/potluck will be February 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM. We will be electing officers for the coming year. Please prayerfully consider being an officer. Please mark your calendar for this date and time.

Always be alert for scam emails, texts, or social media messages pretending to be from church staff. No staff member will ever ask you to purchase gift cards, send money, or share personal information through unofficial channels. All legitimate church communication will only come from an official [@concordianc.org](mailto:@concordianc.org) email address.

If you ever receive a message that feels suspicious, please contact the church office directly before responding.



### National Lutheran Schools Week is February 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>

Dearest Concordia Church Members,

We would love to invite you to be a prayer warrior for our students here at Concordia. We know that you pray for our school, staff and students regularly, but we are specifically focusing on it for the weeks leading up to National Lutheran School's Week. We will celebrate the many blessings and JOYS of being in a Lutheran school and ask that you be a part of that celebration. If you would like to join us, please fill out the slip below and hand it to an usher or email [bmurray@concordianc.org](mailto:bmurray@concordianc.org) and let us know that you interested. We will give you names of students you are praying for. We would then invite you to join us on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> for Chapel at 8:10. We would have you sit with the class/students you have been praying for. What a wonderful way to celebrate our Concordia family!

I want to be a prayer warrior for our Concordia Christian Day School students.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number if no email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will plan on attending chapel on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:10.

## “Reflecting on God’s Love”

Please join your Concordia family on Shrove Tuesday, February 17, for our annual, “Reflecting on God’s Love,” dinner and devotion. We will be reflecting on our need for a Savior and how God’s redemptive love restores to us our salvation through the sending of His Son. This opportunity for fellowship and reflection is for everyone and will include activities for ages 2-6 and ages 7-12.



**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026

**TIME:** 5:30pm – Dinner (pasta/meatballs/salad)

6:15-6:45pm – Devotional

**WHERE:** Emmaus Room

**RSVP:** Church Office (828)464-3324 or scan the QR code above with your smart phone.

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### **From the Board of Christian Education:**

#### **Concordia’s Call to Nicole and Jonathan Kueck**

Concordia Lutheran Church voted on Sunday, January 18, to issue calls to Nicole Kueck to be the Concordia Christian Day School Principal and to Jonathan Kueck to be the CCDS Teacher/Athletic Director. The Call documents have been sent to the Kuecks. They are presently praying and determining whether God is calling them to keep their current Calls to Faith Lutheran High School or to accept the Calls to Concordia. Please keep them in your prayers as they seek the Lord’s will.

#### **Bible Class Opportunities**

It is important that every Christian is involved in studying God’s Word to learn more about God, what He has done for us, and what we can do in response. Group Bible Study allows you to learn about God with others as you share thoughts, ideas and experiences. Concordia is presently offering several Bible Studies on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Take advantage of these opportunities to connect with others. You can join a group at any time.

## **Sunday Christian Education Classes are offered at 10:10a. Choose from below:**

**Pre-school 3 – K Classroom** beside the nursery. – Led by Jerri Alice, Maggie Lou and Mary Elizabeth Carter.

**1st – 3rd Grade** – Led by Sharon White & Ron Bumgarner - Education wing of the church

**4th - 5th Grade** - Led by Nick Butcher - Education wing of the church

**6th - 8th Grade Confirmation** - Led by Kelly Roth - Education wing of the church

**Adults** - A#2 - Led by Kathy Unverfehrt – Parenting Class

**Adults** - A#1 - Led by Pastor Geml - A Longer Look at the Lessons **ROOM CHANGE**

**Adults** - Emmaus Room - The Story - Led by Kevin Graudin **ROOM CHANGE**

**Adults** - Library - Pew Sisters - Led by Jen White

## **Weekday Bible Study Classes**

**Men's Bible Study** led by Kevin Graudin - 6:30p the first and third Thursday of each month- BLCFM

**Ladies Bible Study** led by Kim Hauser – Wednesdays 7a – Emmaus Room

**Men's Bible Study** led by David Isenhower – Thursdays 7a – Emmaus Room

**Pastor's Bible Study** led by Pastor Geml - Thursdays 2p - Emmaus Room

**Christian Book Club** led by Martha Staley - Meets first and third Tuesdays at 10a - Emmaus Room

# The CHOSEN

## **Dinner and a Movie**

Dinner and a Movie is showing episodes 5 and 6 of season four of *The Chosen* on Wednesday, February 4 and February 11. Dinner starts at 5:30 with *The Chosen* starting about 6:15 pm. There is a children's program during the movie time. Episodes 7 and 8 will be shown after Easter vacation in April. Join us to encounter a visual experience of the Gospel story. It allows you to see what life was like at the time of Jesus in a different light.

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## **From the Board of Mission and Ministry**

**February Church and School Mission Project:** Concordia's strategic plan calls us to engage the congregation in the school mission projects. In 2026, the church will be supporting whatever mission project Concordia Day school has selected. In place of special 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings selected by the Mission and Ministry team, we will receive monthly offerings.

February's project is Lutheran Bible Translators. This LCMS organization partners with local leaders to create translation programs for the many communities who do not have access to God's Word in their native language. Your prayers and financial gifts enable us to provide the resources, tools, and the support local leaders need to make the Word of God more accessible than ever. There will be a special offering taken on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> in support of this life-giving ministry!

## **Missionary Prayer Request**

Our missionary family – Jason and Emily Groth, along with children Gideon, Esther, Martha and Joanna – are serving the Lord and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Belize. They began their work as missionaries in January 2025.

These are their recent prayer requests:

\*Christ-Centered Worship and Growth: We give thanks for the Christmas Eve service in Seine Bight and for the faithful gathering around God's Word and hymns during the Advent and Christmas season. Pray that these moments of worship continue to strengthen faith, bring comfort and draw many to rejoice in Christ, the Light of the World.

\*Fellowship Among Missionaries: We thank God for the opportunity for missionaries across Belize to gather for shared meals and worship. Pray that the Lord would sustain this fellowship, guarding against isolation and weariness and continually renewing His servants with unity, encouragement and joy in the Gospel.

\*As we enter a new year of ministry, pray for wisdom and clarity in planning and discernment. Ask the Lord to guide the mission in Belize, to bless the work at Camp Concordia and to prepare hearts for the opportunities He will place before us to proclaim the Gospel, plant churches and show mercy in His name.



Every Sunday

**Come join us for a time to hang out together & dive into scripture to learn more about your faith. All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited.**

**Enter through the exterior Youth Central doors.**

**IN YOUTH CENTRAL**



Each Wednesday!

**HANGS**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**3PM-5PM**

**IN YOUTH CENTRAL**

**Come join us for a time to hang out, play games, eat snacks and experience Christian fellowship. All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited.**

**If coming from off campus please check in at school office.**

**Community Meal**  
Please keep  
**Concordia's meal planning  
committee in your prayers.**  
**We're hard at work organizing  
our first community meal for  
our neighbors.**

**The meal is planned for Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>  
from 5-7pm.**

**Concordia Family Life Center  
215 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Conover**



A Community Meal is a mission for the community at large. It is for the underprivileged, less fortunate, the needy and anyone who would need a hot meal or Christian fellowship. There is no charge for the meal. The meal will be spaghetti and meat sauce, salad, bread, dessert, and beverage.

## **Servant Schedules for February 2026**

### **Children's Message Schedule**

	<u>9:00 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
2/1/2026	Pastor Geml	No Message
2/8/2026	Open	Open
2/15/2026	Pastor Geml	Pastor Geml
2/22/2026	Nick Butcher	Nick Butcher

### **Greeters for January**

	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>11:00a</b>
February 1	Evelyn Caldwell	Evelyn Caldwell
February 8	Angelo & Katrina Palozzi	Jimmy & Jane Martin
February 15	JR & Nicole Morton	Joel & Wynn Ann Quackenboss
February 22	Mary Ann Wike	Opal Bolick & Monty York

### **Fellowship for February**

February 1	Teresa Graudin
February 8	Cindy Sigmon
February 15	Kim Hauser
February 22	Audra Kuchenbecker

### **Lectors for February**

February 1	Lesa Williams	Cristal Rager
February 8	Kathy Unverfehrt	Carolyn Quackenboss
February 15	Bill Stewart	Steve Dunker
February 22	Dave Beringer	Gina Sigmon

If you would like to serve the congregation in one of these areas, please let the church office know.  
828.464.3324 or [sharman@concordianc.org](mailto:sharman@concordianc.org)



# CONCORDIA Christian Day School

To Boldly Provide a Christ-Centered Education Today to Impact Tomorrow's World

## CONCORDIA LIVE AUCTION

The Concordia Live Auction returns to the Hickory Metro Convention Center on **Friday, March 27, 2026!** Doors open at 6:00 PM for an unforgettable evening featuring unique teacher and school experiences, custom class art projects, and high value "big-ticket" items.

Take advantage of our **Early Bird** special tickets are just \$50 through February 15!

Use the QR code to the right to secure your tickets to attend, or visit

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-2080>



Are you interested in becoming a sponsor? Please contact [auction@concordianc.org](mailto:auction@concordianc.org) for more information. All monies raised help support the vision and ministry of Concordia Christian Day School.

## CRUSADER VARSITY GIRLS WIN THE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Congratulations to our Concordia Varsity Girls Basketball Team, your 2026 Winter Classic Lutheran Schools Tournament Champions!

These girls battled all weekend, staying in the winners' bracket from start to finish and earning 1st place through grit, heart, and determination. Friday night, they defeated Emmanuel to advance to Saturday morning's 9:30 a.m. game, where they took down First Lutheran. From there, they faced Resurrection twice in tough, competitive matchups to secure the championship title.

Resurrection was a true battle, but our girls rose to the challenge—showing heart, hustle, and adaptability while stepping into new roles and making quick adjustments when it mattered most. Their lockdown defense was outstanding, with every player contributing to the team's success.

Scoring leaders for the weekend were:

Mary Channing Hoffman (48), Madison Campbell (24), Sophia Monson (16), Ella Fisher (12), Sydney Fletcher (10), Allie Matthews (7), Kaizleigh Fisher (4), and Adrienne Mullinax (3).

While points are important, they were not what defined this championship run.

Additional contributors who saw the floor throughout the tournament and helped in key moments included Sadie Abernethy, Emery Lotsey, Kraegan Dixon, Kahlan VanderMolen, and Aubriana Franklin.

This title was earned through defense, heart, hustle, and teamwork, and we could not be prouder of this group. Congratulations again to our Lady Crusaders on an incredible tournament win!

## VARSITY BOYS RUNNERS-UP

The Crusaders varsity boys basketball team played five games in three days and earned a runner-up finish in the Lutheran schools tournament this past weekend. The Crusaders earned a shot at the championship with three

convincing wins (two vs. St. Stephens and one vs. First Lutheran) but could not overcome a strong team from Resurrection in the final set on Sunday. Defensive intensity amped up and remained at peak levels the entire tournament. Rylan Abernethy and Jonah Fox took on the toughest of assignments with consistently strong performances. Jonah continued to attack the boards and wouldn't back down. The Crusaders' entire rotation contributed at both ends of the court in the team effort it takes to make a run at a championship. Some key milestones were met in the Crusaders' weekend campaign:



In game one vs. St. Stephens, the Crusaders jumped out to an early lead and held that lead the entire game. Jack Hefner led all scorers with his season high of 17 points. Elijah Murgolo followed with 6; Levi Fredell with 3, and Liam Hendershot, Jonah Fox, Sam Essary, and Tyson Cale with 2 each. The Crusaders outclassed St. Stephens without applying any pressure defense as the straight man defense shaped into a strong shield all game long.

In game two vs. First Lutheran, the Crusaders got off to a fast start again but, First Lutheran came all the way back to take a very brief, narrow lead in the 3rd quarter, only to witness a Crusader team bent on getting it done as the Crusaders closed game two out in convincing fashion. Jack Hefner and Elijah Murgolo lead all scorers with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Levi Fredell scored 7 points, Jonah Fox had 6, while Liam Hendershot, Sam Essary, and Alex Elmore added 2 points each. Once again, First Lutheran could not withstand the Crusaders' smothering defensive pressure, as Jude Beringer and Rylan Abernethy rang the bell in another strong defensive stand.

The Crusaders could not find any offensive rhythm vs. Resurrection in game three and were sent to the lower bracket for a Sunday afternoon tip vs. St. Stephens. Jonah Fox, Rylan Abernethy, Alex Elmore, and Jack Hefner led the scoring with 4 points each; Levi Fredell added 2.

For a third time this season and the second time in the tournament, the Crusaders defeated St. Stephens. It was clear that playing and winning three games vs. the same team in a season is not easy, and it wasn't. The Crusaders jumped out hard and fast, leaving St. Stephen's behind in the 1st half, but St. Stephens showed a lot of heart and refused to go away until the Crusaders closed them out mid-4th quarter to advance to the final stanza. Elijah Murgolo led all scorers, pouring in his season high 23 points; Jack Hefner scored 7 points; Jonah Fox had 6, Sam Essary and Alex Elmore had 3 each, and Levi Fredell added 2.

In the final game, Resurrection would not let the Crusaders get into our offense and took home the championship. No matter how tough this game got, the Crusaders refused to give up. Levi Fredell led the scoring with his season high of 8 points; Elijah Murgolo had 4; Jack Hefner had 3; while Tyson Cale, Sam Essary, and Grant Artelt all popped in 3-pointers.

Ultimately, the Crusaders earned runner-up honors, keeping their spirits up and effort strong. The team showed they could overcome adversity, putting in a solid three days of basketball in an exciting tournament atmosphere, with Jack Hefner and Rylan Abernethy being named to the All-Tournament Team.

All glory and honor to our Lord.



## CONCORDIA CHEER TEAMS PLACE 2ND & 3RD!

Congratulations to the Varsity cheerleading team on their 2nd-place win this weekend! They also won the Best Jumps award!

Our JV team brought home third place! They won awards for best pyramid and most creative routine!

In the Dads Jump Contest, Matt Byerley, Derek Fisher, Brian Bixby, Adam Keisler, and Brent Pearson all participated, and Brent Pearson ended up bringing home the trophy out of 12 courageous dads!

Lastly, big congratulations to Jessica Hoffman for winning the chili cookoff, sponsored by the cheer team! Cory Westby came in a close second!

We appreciate everyone who supported the cheerleaders all weekend!



News from...

# UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

*Your Lutheran High School*

February 2026

## **Open House & Admissions for 2026-2027**

Join us for an Open House on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Come learn about the advantages of attending UCHS, hear an in-depth discussion of academic and student life, details regarding the admissions process, and enjoy a guided tour of the campus led by UCHS Student Ambassadors. No registration is required but appreciated. If you can't make it to the open house, contact us and we can arrange an after-school tour for you and your student.

We are still accepting applications for the 2026-2027 freshman class, but now's the time to submit your application and secure your spot. Don't delay! Limited openings are also available for other grade levels as well.

Prospective students are also encouraged to spend a day "shadowing", so they can experience what it is like to be a Barracuda. You can sign up for an Open House, Shadow Day, or begin the online application at <https://www.uchigh.com/admissions>.





**2026**



**Monthly  
Food Suggestion**

*January*



Soup or broth

*February*



Macaroni, pasta, or canned sauce

*March*



March Madness Challenge

*April*



Canned or dried beans

*May*



Pet food (National Pet Month)

*June*



Cereal

*July*



Snacks for kids

*August*



Canned food with pop-tops

*September*



Peanut butter or jelly

*October*



Hygiene items (National Hygiene Month)

*November*



Flour, cornmeal, or sugar

*December*



Reverse advent boxes

... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me ...

Matthew 25:35-40



245 East N Street, Newton, NC • 828.465.1702 • ashureministry.org



Ashore Ministry &  
Ashore Ministry Thrift Store  
Ph: 828-465-1702  
P.O. Box 31 245 East N St.  
Newton, NC 28658  
ashureministry.org

## Highlights

It's a wrap on our annual Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive—and thanks to YOU, it was a **record-breaking year!** 🎉 Your generosity made a tremendous difference, helping ensure our pantry shelves stay stocked and families in Catawba County have access to food when they need it most. We are so grateful for every box, every item, and every act of care.

For January and February, we'll return to our monthly food suggestion list. **For January we are asking for donations of canned soup or broth, and for February, the item of the month is macaroni, pasta, or canned sauce.** As always, all donations are accepted! We also need recycled plastic grocery bags, which are essential to keeping our pantry running smoothly.

**The Season of Lent** is a time of prayer, reflection, and service as we prepare for Easter and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. In that spirit, Ashure Ministry invites you to consider **making your Lenten discipline one of service by volunteering 40 hours during the Lenten season.** This opportunity runs from Ash Wednesday (February 18) through Good Friday (April 3) and offers a meaningful way to live out your faith through hands-on service. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact our Volunteer Engagement Director, Allen Sherrill, at [a.sherrill@ashureministry.org](mailto:a.sherrill@ashureministry.org). God bless you, and may this Lenten season be a time of deep reflection and preparation for the victory we celebrate on Easter.

Coming in March: Our most fun and high-energy event of the year—the **March Madness Food Drive is coming back!** 🏀 Get ready, get set, and let's play ball! Who will rally the most passionate team and show the biggest heart in 2026? Thank you for standing with us and helping make all of this possible. ❤️

We now have an **Amazon Wishlist!** Interested in a new way to contribute to the ministry? Check out our wishlist here: [amzn.to/NsdN9Aw](https://amzn.to/NsdN9Aw).



Invite Josh Farmer to speak at your church! [j.farmer@ashureministry.org](mailto:j.farmer@ashureministry.org) OR... Join us for **Coffee and Conversation** every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 8:30-9:30am.

**Interested in volunteering?** Your time can make a major difference right now. Volunteer by contacting 📩 Allen Sherrill at [a.sherrill@ashureministry.org](mailto:a.sherrill@ashureministry.org).



Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!



**SOCIAL SERVICES**  
P.O. Box 669  
Newton, NC 28658-0669  
Phone: 828-695-5600  
[www.catawba countyne.gov/dss](http://www.catawba countyne.gov/dss)

December 10, 2025

Concordia Lutheran Church  
216 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Conover, NC 28613

Dear Church Members:

The Adult Services Division of Social Services wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the many gifts you provided to our elderly and disabled clients. Your church did an outstanding job of furnishing requested gift items and returning them in a timely manner.

Special thanks to Lisa Travis and Paula Brown for coordinating the sponsors and helping with the gifts. We gratefully appreciate your service to the community. Your church has truly grasped the giving spirit of the Christmas season and we thank you. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Friedia".

Fredia Denton  
Administrative Assistant I  
Adult Services Division  
Catawba County DSS

# FEBRUARY

*This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!*



1. For your LWML sisters.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
3. For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your church organist.
5. For those fighting cancer.
6. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
7. For the country of Botswana.
8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
9. For the needs of those on the mission field.
10. For the country of Brazil.
11. For those in the Armed Forces.
12. For the President of the United States.
13. For love in your heart for your neighbor.
14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.
15. For the country of Cambodia.
16. For the LWML Kansas District.
17. For those who are caregivers.
18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
19. For the country of Cameroon.
20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
23. For the country of Canada.
24. For the LWML Missouri District.
25. For your LWML district officers.
26. For the country of Chile.
27. For your LWML group members.
28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
29. For God's gift of another year of your life.

# Reflecting on God's Love

In preparation for the season of Lent, we will be having a dinner and a short devotion on Shrove Tuesday. We will be reflecting on God's redemptive love revealed to us through His Son. Everyone is invited to join their church family for fellowship and meditation on God's Word.

Tuesday, February 17

5:30pm Dinner (pasta, meatballs, salad)

6:15 - 6:45p Devotion

RSVP to the church office or  
Scan the QR code



Babysitting provided

# February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Brandon Elrod	23-Feb
Liezcel Artelt	23-Feb
Meryt Artelt	23-Feb
David Ajazi	24-Feb
Nick Butcher	25-Feb
Joyce Spencer	26-Feb
Emma Coffey	26-Feb
Corey Christians	27-Feb
Debbie Da Rosa	28-Feb

Abe Ajazi	1-Feb
Jerome Bolick	2-Feb
Brian Roberts	2-Feb
Matt Cecil	3-Feb
Angelique Bost	4-Feb
Linda Moretz	5-Feb
Mary Elizabeth Carter	5-Feb
Anthony DeHart	5-Feb
Carl Roth	5-Feb
Asa Butcher	6-Feb
Brent Hayes	7-Feb
James Campbell	7-Feb
Etta Gardner	8-Feb
Lamar Stewart	8-Feb
Lisa Stone	9-Feb
Fred Farmer	10-Feb
Craig Elrod	11-Feb
Kenneth Elliott	12-Feb
Lois Hintzmann	13-Feb
Bobbi Robinson	15-Feb
Eugene Long	16-Feb
Beth Spencer	17-Feb
Natalie Raatz	17-Feb
Chris Beringer	17-Feb
Watson Welch	17-Feb
Lindsey Elrod	20-Feb
Brian Galloway	21-Feb
Jessica Montgomery	21-Feb
Hayden Cecil	22-Feb
Reid Cecil	22-Feb



3-Feb	Barry & Laura Perry
4-Feb	Michael & Cornelia Allman
11-Feb	Roger & Betty Heavner
12-Feb	Opie & Lesa Williams
18-Feb	Dick & Sherri Hiler

If your name is missing from one of these lists, please let the church office know.

828.464.3324

[sharman@concodianc.org](mailto:sharman@concodianc.org)

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 2pm Voters' Assembly 4:30pm Scouts 5pm Youth Group	2 10am Bible Study BLCFM 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts  	3 10am Christian Book Club 6:30pm Men's Bible Study - BLCFM	4 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM  3pm 3p - 5p Youth Hangs 5:30pm Dinner and a Movie 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM  9am Staff Devotion & Meeting - EM  2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM	6 2pm Joyful Stitchers - BLCFM	7 5pm Community Dinner
8 Boy Scout Sunday 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts 5pm Youth Group	9 10am Bible Study BLCFM 6pm Assimilation - Library 6:30pm Scouts	10 9am Staff Devotion & Meeting - EM 11:30am PrimeTimers - EM 5:30pm M & M - A#1 6:30pm Day School Board 6:30pm Elders - EM	11 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM  3p - 5p Youth Hangs 5:30pm Dinner and a Movie 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM  2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM  6pm Trustees - EM 6:30pm Board of Christian Ed-Library	13	14
15 8am LLL 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts 5pm Youth Group	16 10am Bible Study BLCFM 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts	17 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 9am Staff Devotion & Meeting - EM 10am Christian Book Club 12pm Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm Reflecting on God's Love 6:30pm Men's Bible Study - BLCFM 6:30pm Stewardship - Library	18 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 11:30am Ash Wednesday Service  3p - 5p Youth Hangs 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:15pm Choir	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM  2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM	20 2pm Joyful Stitchers - BLCFM	21
22 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts 5pm Youth Group	23 10am Bible Study BLCFM 1pm LWML - EM 6:30pm Scouts	24 9am Staff Devotion & Meeting - EM	25 7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 11:30am Lent Midweek Service 12:15pm Mid-week Lenten Lunch  3p - 5p Youth Hangs 5:30pm Mid-week Lent Meal 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Mid-Week Lent Worship 7:15pm Choir	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM  2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM  6:30pm Church Council - EM	27	28