

# WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Shaped By Christ... To Share His Love!*

## Voters' Assembly

### Voters' Assembly

Church Council has scheduled a Special Voters Assembly meeting for Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the FLC. The only business to be acted on at this Special Voters meeting will be to consider a candidate recommended by the Principal Call Committee to serve as Principal of Concordia Christian Day School.

David Isenhower  
 Congregational President

### Easter Lily Orders

Would you like to order an Easter Lily to adorn the sanctuary on Easter? Forms are available at the welcome centers. The lilies are \$10.50 each. Fill out a form and return it to the church office. If you would like a form emailed to you, please email [sharman@concordianc.org](mailto:sharman@concordianc.org), and a form will be sent to you.

### Bible Verse for Reflection



Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

John 11: 40-42

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### Nursery Hours

**8:45a - 12:15p**

We are happy to have a church nursery available for your needs. It is located down the main hall off the sanctuary on the right-hand side, just a few doors past the office area. Look for the sign.

### Connect with Staff

Michael Geml, Sr. Pastor 517-395-8422  
 Kyle McClure, Music Minister 828-302-1236  
 Nick Butcher, DCE 989-274-5953

Dave Beringer, Principal 715-551-5740  
 Leslie Brown, Business Admin. 828-234-0372

Susan Harman 828-464-3324

Kate Cullen 828-464-3011

**Members:**

Sydney Karre  
 Peggy Travis  
 Steven Geml  
 Donna Hager  
 Harold Unger  
 Sandy Smith  
 Steve Bost  
 Leslie Brown  
 Paul Von Rentzell  
 Kelli Kaylor  
 Stuart Allen  
 Don Hauser  
 Lorraine Yount  
 Michael Allman  
 Debbie Jones

**Pray for:**

**Church & School Staff:**

Renee Karre  
 Jessica Westby  
 Krystal Freeman  
 Tracie Henderson  
 Seminary Student: Lamar Stewart & family  
 Missionary Family: Rev. Jason & Emily Groth, Belize

**Friends:**

Eli Ames  
 Greg Sigmon  
 Norman Barcelon  
 Nathan Brown  
 Phyllis Bollinger  
 Sharon Yount

**Military:**

Eric Galloway  
 Kendall Hamm  
 Tony Sherrill  
 Christopher Walker  
 Jaylen Joyner  
 Nathan Malin  
 Amber Miller  
 Clay Weedman

**Connect With Concordia**

**March Mission**

March mission offerings for the church and school will focus on the pro-life Christian ministry of the Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley (PCC). The PCC demonstrates the love of Christ by meeting pregnant women and their families where they are, empowering, encouraging, and equipping them on their journey. All services are provided at no cost to the client.

**Project Connect Booklets**

Connect with people who need Jesus using Project Connect booklets and witness tools, including small wooden crosses, available in the narthex and transept. Please tell people about Jesus! We are His witnesses.

**Did you know?**

Concordia Lutheran Church sends out weekly emails to all subscribers. To subscribe, go to <https://www.concordianc.org/>. Look for the box at the bottom of our homepage that says “Sign up for email communications. Click on the button that says “Click here to sign up””. Fill in your information. You will then start to receive emails from the church office.

**Temporary Music Positions Available**

Concordia Lutheran Church in Conover is seeking individuals to serve in the temporary positions of organist, praise band leader, and pianist. These musicians will assist with our Sunday morning worship services, which include a contemporary service at 9:00 a.m. and a traditional service at 11:00 a.m. The positions will begin on Sunday, April 12, and will continue for approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

If you are interested or would like additional information, please get in touch with Doug Brady, Chairman of the Board of Elders, at 828-612-6504.

Find us on:

Live Broadcast of our 11 a.m. Sunday Service is on Facebook and YouTube.



## Christian Education

These Sunday Christian Education Classes are offered at 10:10a.

**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 - Parents Leading Children in Faith

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

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

**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 (or 6:30a for breakfast)

**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

**Always be alert to scam emails**, texts, or social media messages that pretend 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 email address.



### New Parenting Class

**“Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family.”**

This Bible study will explore 14 practical and gospel-centered principles that will help you see your role as a parent through the lens of God’s Word and change the way you interact with your children.

**Where:** Adult#2

**When:** Begins March 29

**Time:** Sunday School (10:10-10:50)

**Facilitator:** Kathy Unverfehrt

### CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BAGS

You can find these activity bags located on the Welcome Centers in both the narthex and transept areas of the church. When church is over, please return it, with all the items in the bag, so it will be available again next week for the children.

### OFFERINGS & TITHES

All are invited to make an offering today as a worship expression of thanksgiving to God, and in support of the ministries of Concordia Lutheran Church. You may place your gift in the offering plate near the entrances as you enter or leave. May God bless our offerings and tithes and bless the ministries which these gifts enable.

### Just the Facts:

General Fund Offerings: \$ 11,852

Budget Needs: \$ 18,726

Attendance: 228

On-Line Giving: \$ 1,610

Mid-week Lent: \$ 1,422

Attendance: N/A

**Member of the Week:** Ann Holt - 318 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Conover, NC 28613.

**Flowers on the altar** last week were given to the glory of God and in memory of Smitty Bolick, who passed away seven years ago on March 13th.

**Weekly Calendar**

**Sunday, March 22**

9a Worship & Communion  
10:10a Christian Education  
11a Worship & PK3 - Kindergarten Sing  
4:30p Scouts  
5p Youth Group

**Monday, March 23**

1p LWML - EM  
6:30p Scouts

**Tuesday, March 24**

9a Staff Devotion & Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 25**

7am Ladies Bible Study  
8:10a CCDS Chapel/Baptism  
11:30a Lent Worship  
12:15p Mid-Week Lent Meal  
3p Youth Hangs - Youth Central  
5:30p Lent Meal  
5:45 Handbells  
6:30p Mid-Week Lent Worship  
7:15p Choir

**Thursday, March 26**

6:30a Men's Bible Study  
2p Pastor's Bible Study  
6:30p Church Council  
7p Hickory Rings Concert - Sanctuary

**Friday, March 27**

6p CCDS Auction

**Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday**

9a Worship & Communion  
10:10a Christian Education  
11a Worship & Communion  
12p McClure Luncheon and Sending - FLC  
2p Voters' Assembly - FLC  
4:30p Scouts  
5p Youth Group

**Greeters Today:**

(9:00) Kyle Hayman Family  
(11:00) Dick & Sherri Hiler

**Greeters Next Week:**

(9:00) Bobby & Deanna Moore  
(11:00) Fred Farmer

**Lectors Today:**

(9:00) Bill Unverfehrt  
(11:00) Sherri Hiler

**Lectors Next Week:**

(9:00) Katrina Palozzi  
(11:00) Jill Adair

**Children's Message Next Week:**

(9:00) Nick Butcher  
(11:00) Nick Butcher

**Fellowship Today:**

Mary Ann Wike

**Fellowship Next Week:**

Lois & Arden Hintzmann



Dear Members of Concordia Lutheran Church,

The Principal Call Committee has continually surrounded the entire process in prayer as we have asked for God's guidance. We know that God has a plan for Concordia.

We knew there were very few LCMS principal candidates available nationwide. This encouraged us to make sure that all possible candidates were included. So that we would have the greatest number of candidates, the principal job description changed from a master's degree "required" to a master's degree "recommended".

In August, we accessed the national database of all Lutheran teachers, principals, and DCEs to identify anyone interested in serving as an elementary principal who was willing to be considered for a call and would be willing to move to the SE District. This produced a list of 109 candidates. We then reviewed each candidate's biography and eliminated those who had just accepted a call, could not relocate, were at or near retirement age, or met other conditions that precluded them from consideration.

This left a list of 30 non-local individuals and two candidates from our faculty. We reevaluated these 30 candidates and identified the top 10 candidates. We contacted the top 10, and two candidates reached out to us expressing interest in Concordia. We conducted Zoom interviews with Christine Malone and Kris Schneider, and in-person interviews with current Day School faculty members Jessica Westby and Taylor Fletcher. Kris Schneider was our top choice, and he was initially very interested. We were working out a time for him and his wife to visit when he decided that North Carolina was too far from his grown children in California and his aging father. He withdrew his name from consideration at that time.

We then contacted the remaining 30 candidates on our list. Most of them were unable to leave their ministry at this time and had other reasons why a call at this time was not possible. This produced a total of 3 candidates from the field, Nichole Kueck, Kyle Barth, and Christine Malone, and two candidates from our Day School faculty, Jessica Westby and Taylor Fletcher. We had Zoom interviews with Nichole Kueck and Kyle Barth. We then invited Nichole, Kyle, Christine, and their spouses to visit. During each visit, the call committee had additional interviews and spent a lot of time with each candidate.

Christine Malone was removed from consideration because the call committee determined our call wasn't a good fit for her. Taylor Fletcher did not meet the requirement of being an LCMS-called church member, as she is a member of a non-Lutheran church. She had offered to join the LCMS and complete the colloquy process, but since the principal is a member of the church staff and responsible for the doctrine taught at the school, we felt that an LCMS background was necessary. All the other candidates we considered were synodically trained and eligible for a call.

Kyle Barth is a high school teacher with 16 years of experience. He does not have administrative experience and has only two years of elementary/early childhood experience. Jessica Westby has 16 years of teaching experience but lacks administrative education or experience.

The call committee considered Nichole Kueck to be the top candidate. Concordia called Nichole Kueck to be our principal. Nichole and Jonathan (called to be the AD/teacher) declined our calls. They felt that accepting our call was not in their family's best interests. It had nothing to do with the salary, but the job responsibilities would reduce the time they had available to spend with their six children.

Day School Assistant Principal and Early Childhood Director Betsy Murray served on the call committee. In mid-February, she asked to be considered for the principal position. Betsy felt that God had led her through the process with the call committee to open her eyes. She came to realize that she could do the job and wanted to be considered for the position. Betsy withdrew from the call committee once she became a candidate. The call committee interviewed Betsy and had a second interview with Jessica Westby.

Betsy Murray has 33 years of teaching experience, including 30 at Concordia. From 1993 to 1996, she was a preschool teacher at St. Stephen's Lutheran. She was our Kindergarten teacher from 1996 until 2006, when she became our Early Childhood Director and Assistant Principal. She has 20 years of experience in those two administrative positions. Betsy graduated in 1996 from Lenoir-Rhyne University with a BA in K-6 Elementary Education. She earned her colloquy in 2004 (making her a rostered member of the LCMS) and completed the LCMS SLED (School Leadership Development) program in 2006. The revised Principal Job Description does not require a Master's Degree to be called a Principal, but she has agreed to begin working toward completing one. In addition to her service to Concordia, Betsy served as the SE District Early Childhood Consultant from 2001 to 2024, conducted over 15 accreditation visits to other schools, and served on the Teacher Conference Committee for five years. She is presently serving on the University Christian High School Board of Directors. Betsy is married to Steve Murray. Their daughter, Helen, is a junior at University Christian High School.

The Principal Call Committee recommends Betsy Murray for the principal position. Betsy already has a call to Concordia Lutheran Church. It would be redundant to issue her another call, as her call remains to the church and is not dependent on her position. We are asking voters to approve a position change that would make her the next principal of Concordia Christian Day School. Serving our Lord and Savior,

The Principal Call Committee: Bill Unverfehrt (chairperson), Kyle Hayman, Brandon Elrod, Dorcas Dunker, Renee Karre, and Paul Von Rentzell



**You Are Invited!**



**A Sending for the McClures  
March 29, 2026  
12 Noon  
Family Life Center  
Catered Luncheon and Farewell**

A freewill offering will be accepted to offset the cost of the meal.