

Concordia Newsletter

January 2026

Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School
216 5th 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

Mr. David Beringer, Principal 828.464.3301 x202

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

NO REST FOR...

At the time of this writing it is still several days until Christmas. But as the old saying goes, "There is no rest for the weary." I chose this version of the old saying over the original saying which goes, "There is no rest for the wicked." I'd rather be weary than wicked. But I'm afraid we are all both weary and wicked. Both sayings are variations of the text in Isaiah 57. "But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

To the weary and the wicked the Lord comes with an invitation. "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). So, to the weary and the wicked, have you planned your times of rest for the year of our Lord 2026? I'm not talking about trips to the beach or to the mountains. I'm talking about those weekly trips of rest that find us in the presence of the Lord. The Lord has promised us rest in His presence.

Only the Lord knows what the next 365 days will bring. There is always a degree of uncertainty in this life. We walk by faith and not by sight. Yes, we do walk by faith, but we do not walk blind to the ways of the world. We can be certain of the Lord's promise. We can approach the year ahead in no better way than to begin in the presence of the Lord who promises to be with us always. May the Lord bless us and direct us as we begin another year living under His Grace.

A blessed and happy New Year to all.
Pastor Geml

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



Hospital/Outpatient: Leslie Brown, Paul Von Rentzell, Greg Roseman, Opie Williams

Blessings to: Jose & Maria Barrios upon the baptism of their two sons, Lukas and Mateo

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; Ongoing hurricane & fire recovery efforts.

New Members Received on Dec. 7, 2025

Jose & Maria Barrios, Lukas and Mateo

JR Morton

Gary Reeder

Dale & Heather Borget

Bill Walch, Sean

Bill Stewart

Shannon & Jessica Huffman

Michael & Phyllis Kane

Evelyn Caldwell

Dennis & Carolyn Quackenboss

You may have seen some of these faces around for a while. Some joined earlier in the year, but are recently recognized as new members.



The Prime Timers meeting/potluck will be January 13th, 11:30AM. A planning social and sign-up sheet for hosting and special functions. Please mark your calendar for this date and time.



**Church Office Closing at 11a on
January 1st for the New Years
Holiday and will reopen on
Monday, January 5**

New Webpage

Please visit Concordia's new website! It's all new, dynamic and can be seen on your cell phone! There is also a private members page. Please call the church office before signing up so you can be assigned a one-time code. We want to keep the private page private for members only.

Chili Cook-off Time - Save the date!

It's almost time for the annual chili cook-off! Get ready to bring your best pot of chili and join the Board of Assimilation on Saturday, January 24 at 5:00 in the Family Life Center of the school. Bring your appetite and come out for a night of food and fellowship!

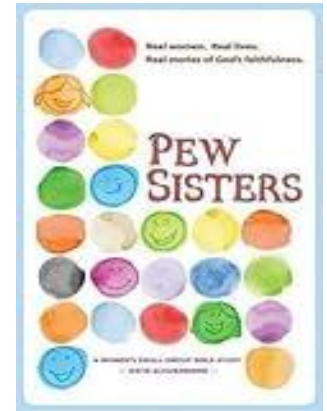
News from the Board of Christian Education

Principal Call Process

The Principal Call Committee has Nikki Kueck and her husband, Jonathan, coming to interview and visit our campus January 2-4, 2026. Nikki is the principal of Faith Lutheran High School in Giddings, Texas. She and Jonathan started this Lutheran High School eight years ago. Nikki has experience in teaching children from preschool to high school. This is the third and final candidate from out of town that we will be bringing in for an interview. Please keep this call process in your prayers as we seek the Lord's will.

New Bible Studies

Pew Sisters: A 12-session Bible study for women, 12 different women generously share the story of God's faithfulness in their lives for the consolation of their sisters in Christ. Each session begins with a Scripture reading followed by a narrative of an individual woman's real-life story. Eight study questions, designed for both personal and group study, help the reader apply the reading and narrative to her own life in Christ. A meditative hymn stanza and collect complete each session. Taught by Jen White. Meet in church library.



The Story is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. There are no verse references, and Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, *The Story* helps people understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily. Simple, accessible, and easy to use, churches are finding *The Story* a powerful way to engage their people in Bible reading like never before. As it brings the Bible to life, people of all ages will be swept up in the story of God's love and his plan for their lives.

- 31 sessions
- Study Time: Minimal (less than 30 min)
- Abridged, chronological reader's Bible

Taught by Kevin Graudin and Dennis Quackenboss in Adult Room #1

Adult Bible Classes

Weekly

Men's Bible Class on the Book of John

Tuesday 6:30 pm - Brian Long Center
Taught by Kevin Graudin

Women's Bible Class

Wednesday 7:00 am - Emmaus Room
Taught by Kim Hauser

Men's Bible Class

Thursday 7:00 am - Emmaus Room
Taught by David Isenhower

Afternoon Bible Class

Thursday 2:00 pm - Emmaus Room
Taught by Pastor Geml

Christian Book Club

First & Third Tuesday 10:00 am - Emmaus Room
Led by Martha Staley

Sunday Morning

A Study of the Lessons – Emmaus Room

Taught by Pastor Geml and Carl Roth

Parenting Class – Adult Room #2

Taught by Kathy Unverfehrt

The Story – Adult Room #1

Taught by Pastor Kevin Graudin and Pastor
Dennis Quackenboss

Pew Sisters – Church Library

A Women's Bible Study taught by Jen White



Lutheran Church & School

The Stewart's Seminary Journey
Where did Fall go?
By Lamar Stewart on December 15, 2025

To say the start to the school year and all that comes with fall has been a whirlwind would be an understatement. I am sure many if not all of you can relate. Classes (for Lamar) this semester are hitting their final week's stretch, which means lots of big assignments. This semester has been a full yet formative one as I set out to tackle another language (German). It has been both challenging and rewarding but definitely added to my workload for the semester. My hope is this will be an aid to my deeper understanding of God's word as my remaining time at the Seminary continues to navigate many theological texts that often reference original works that were written in German. I especially enjoyed my time studying the Pauline Epistles and several more books of the Old Testament. It has been wonderful to dive deeper into God's word and see and hear the depth to which his gospel message is interwoven throughout all his word. He has revealed himself as Exod. 34:6 says, "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." God continues throughout his-story to reveal his redeeming love and faithfulness for all people as it is made abundantly clear through his Son Jesus life, death and resurrection. This was God's plan to restore and redeem his creation and we are blessed to have received the promises of God in Jesus by grace through faith. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow deeper in my knowledge of God and his word so that I will cling to his promises and boldly seek to proclaim his good news with every opportunity I am afforded.

As for the rest and best of the Stewart family, the Stewart girls, they are all doing well. Jessica has settled into her new role working at the Seminary. She is working diligently to use her giftedness to help create and model hospitality through events and campus activities that we pray will only help and assist future pastors in doing this in congregational settings years from now. While it has been enjoyable for her and I to see each other more at campus, the girls have missed seeing their mom at school throughout the day and so we still have the occasional moment of sadness. It is still amazing to think about the many doors God has opened for us in this short year and a half and the many blessings that he has given us along this journey.

The girls have recently wrapped up their fall sports seasons. Aileen had a stellar cross-country season ending in a 12th place finish at the city meet. She learned that hard work and dedication pay off as her training took her from near the back of the pack last year to within sight of top 10 finishes all season. This training carried on to the soccer field as well as endurance helped her to be an active steady player for her team and scoring goals in several of her games this season. Esther also competed well in both cross country and soccer. She is still finding enjoyment and having fun being around friends while also improving in both sports. Lydia was never far away from her sisters and always tagging along and playing with them whenever it was allowed. She got to run in her first race and did not stop. I can't help but imagine how I was a little like Lydia constantly chasing my older siblings around trying to do and be like them in everything (don't tell them I said that). For sports, we are on to the next thing as basketball begins and both older girls are excited to get back on the court. Lydia is still too young to participate fully in many extracurriculars, but she loves her first dance class, and if you ask her, she will tell you all about it and how she moved up to the older class because she is a big girl and a wonderful listener and dancer. You must love her spunkyness even if mom and dad sometimes try to tame it. The girls continue to love their school, and we are grateful for a place that allows them the opportunities to recite God's word, sing God praises, and to always be reminded that they are a child of God, loved and saved by Jesus. It brings Jessica and I so much joy to see their excitement and love for learning about God, this world, and themselves.

At this writing we just returned from our trek back to NC over Thanksgiving week. We give thanks to God for friends and family that we were able to connect with and form new memories with on our trip. We undoubtedly

did not have time to catch up with everyone, and we never seem to get around to all the stops and people we plan, but we give thanks to God for each of you and the place you have in our lives. As always, we pray and ask God that his Holy Spirit will guide and keep you as you go on living and trusting in his promises each day and that you are experiencing the joy of his love and blessings.

Prayers:

Galatians 4:4-6 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- May God remind you that you have been adopted into his family through the work of the incarnate Son Jesus, and let us all find confidence and assurance of our status as heirs before God the Father through faith in Christ.

- Pray for a blessed 2026 and Christ-filled year for us all!

We plan to continue updating our family newsletter online regularly. Check back for updates on the **Stewart's Seminary Journey**, use the following QR Code to check-in on updates from us as a family. If you would rather us send the newsletter to you directly, email Jessica at jhstew15@gmail.com.



The Stewart Family

1537 Paradise Valley Dr High Ridge,
MO, 63049

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. 7th
from 5-7pm.

Concordia Family Life Center
215 5th Ave SE, Conover



UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Your Lutheran High School

January 2025

Open House & Admissions for 2026-2027

UCHS is still accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year! Join us for an Open House on February 10th 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. Prospective students can also sign up 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>.

Giving Tuesday Gratitude

Thanks to you, our Barracuda Community, we exceeded our goal! We also want to thank St. Stephens Lutheran Church & a big-hearted Friend of UCHS for providing TWO matches which tripled the impact of your generosity. Thank you for all the ways that you support UCHS & Lutheran education!

Seniors Kyndal Sloop & Morgan Ruebusch Sign Letters of Intent

Kyndal Sloop officially signed her national letter of intent to pursue her academic and athletic journey at Lee University (Division II), where she will play Lacrosse and study Health Sciences. Kyndal has dedicated a total of nine years playing lacrosse, most recently as a member of Style, a travel lacrosse team based in Charlotte. Kyndal has also been an active UCHS student-athlete, participating in five different sports: Tennis, Basketball, Track & Field, Indoor Track, and Soccer. She earned the title of MVP in Track & Field and has been honored with the Christian Character Award five times during her tenure as a student-athlete.

Morgan Ruebusch officially signed her national letter of intent to compete in Division 1 swimming at Georgia Southern University. She plans to pursue a major in Economics. Morgan has been competing in swimming since the age of eight! She is an integral part of the UCHS swim team and also participates in her club swim team year-round. Throughout her high school journey, Morgan has shattered numerous records and garnered a plethora of awards. She proudly holds the UCHS record in five events: the 50 free, 200 free, 200 IM, 100 fly, and 100 back! Additionally, she earned the title of UC Swim Most Valuable Player during both her sophomore and junior years. In 2024, she clinched the State Championship in the 200 IM and 100 fly, followed by victories in the 200 free and 100 fly in 2025. Remarkably, Morgan has maintained an unbeaten streak in individual races for the past two years!

We are thrilled to see both these seniors’ hard work culminate in this incredible opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.

Free E-Waste Recycling

Partnered with Upcycle USA LLC

Website: www.upcyclellc.com

Acceptable Items

Computers (All-in-Ones), Desktops, Laptops, Towers/Servers, Ipads/Tablets, Cellphones, LCD Monitors, Printers/Copiers/Scanners, Switches, Routers, Modems, Network Equipment, Projectors, Fax Machines, VCR, DVD, Ipods, Speakers, Ink/Toner Cartridges, Deskphones, Memory Cards, Video Cards, Hard Drives, Tape Drives, Keyboards, Mice, Chargers/Cables/Computer Accessories, Medical and Testing equipment.

Upcycle uses a proprietary version of software from DBAN that performs a DoD 5220.22-M data sanitization procedure on all data bearing devices. The DoD 5220.22-M sanitization method is one of the most widely used and secure sanitization methods used in data destruction software.

The DoD 5220.22-M data sanitization method is implemented in the following way: Pass 1: Writes a zero and verifies the write. Pass 2: Writes a one and verifies the write. Pass 3: Writes a random character and verifies the write. If there are any failures in the data sanitization process, all hard drives are shredded using a PRO SINO Double Shaft Shredder (PS-D2130).



⚡ THE BOARD OF ASSIMILATION PRESENTS ⚡

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

01-24-2026

BRING THE HEAT!

5:00p

Hot Prizes for the best chili!



Concordia Family Life Center
215 5th Street SE. Conover, NC 28613



Concordia Lutheran Church

BLOOD DRIVE

**2 JANUARY
2026**

**1:00P –
5:30P**

**215 5th Ave SE
Conover, NC
28613**

Concordia Family Life Center

Servant Schedules for January 2025

Children's Message Schedule

	<u>9:00 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
1/4/2026	Pastor Geml	No Message
1/11/2026	Nick Butcher	Nick Butcher
1/18/2026	Pastor Geml	Pastor Geml
1/25/2026	OPEN	OPEN

Greeters for January

	9:00a	11:00a
January 4	Cindy Spears	Opie & Lesa Williams
January 11	Kyle Hayman Family	Dennis & Carolyn Quackenboss
January 18	Randy & Carmen Isenhower	Clarence & Joyce Pugh
January 25	Bobby & Deanna Moore	Paul & Frances Hale

Fellowship for December

January 4	Renee Christie
January 11	Sandy Von Rentzell
January 18	Carmen Isenhower
January 25	Carla Hafer

JANUARY

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 Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For God's direction in your life during this new year.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #1.
3. For Afghanistan, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your pastor.
5. For your LWML District Board of Directors.
6. Epiphany! Thank God that Jesus came to save us!
7. For the country of Angola.
8. For the LWML Texas District.
9. For young people to follow Jesus.
10. For all church workers.
11. For the country of Argentina.
12. For your community and the opportunity to share the Gospel with other people groups.
13. For LWML Mission Grant #2.
14. For our Lutheran Women in Mission President.
15. For the country of Austria.
16. For the LWML Oklahoma District.
17. For all Lutheran Braille Workers and volunteers.
18. For all law enforcement officers.
19. For the Bahamas.
20. For your vocation.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #3.
22. For those who receive needed staples from food pantries.
23. For the country of Bangladesh.
24. Recite the Lord's Prayer today.
25. For the editors of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.
26. For the homebound in your congregation.
27. For your dear friends.
28. For countries that have not yet heard the Gospel.
29. For the homeless in your area.
30. For the country of Belize.
31. For Sunday school teachers.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Mary Canrobert	1-Jan
Allen Sigmon	1-Jan
Drew Hass	1-Jan
Billy Loftin	1-Jan
D. Scott Howard	4-Jan
David Isenhower	4-Jan
Sonny Roseman	4-Jan
Martha Staley	4-Jan
Sophie Hass	6-Jan
Jane Long	7-Jan
Laura Perry	9-Jan
Brycen Burns	9-Jan
Alan Hefner	11-Jan
Noah Hass	11-Jan
Kathy Isenhour	11-Jan
Carrigan Elrod	12-Jan
Channing Loftin	13-Jan
Wade Cecil	13-Jan
Jimmy Martin	13-Jan
Sonny Pruitt	13-Jan
Jennifer Travis	14-Jan
Pat Moser	15-Jan
Christopher Elrod	16-Jan
Bran Reid	16-Jan
Abigail Garrison	16-Jan
Dale Spencer	17-Jan
Steven Braun	17-Jan
DJ Braun	17-Jan
Andrew Hayes	18-Jan
Collin Yount	18-Jan
Caitlynn Butcher	18-Jan
Pree Christensen	20-Jan
Pat Kincaid	20-Jan

Brooks Spencer	20-Jan
Hadley Winkler	20-Jan
Houston Winkler	20-Jan
Aaron Hamm	21-Jan
Paula Malin	23-Jan
Curtis Spencer	24-Jan
Noah Hedrick	24-Jan
Chloe Brown	25-Jan
Madison Hayes	26-Jan
Sydney Karre	27-Jan
Caleb Welch	27-Jan
Samuel Moretz	27-Jan
Terry Kuchenbecker	29-Jan
Elias Huss	29-Jan
Nancy C. Bolick	30-Jan
Joshua Farmer	30-Jan
Anna Noell	31-Jan














19-Jan	Dwayne & Amanda Welch
24-Jan	Mark & Janise Moretz
25-Jan	Greg & Lori Roseman
28-Jan	Carl & Debbie Roth
30-Jan	Brad & Kelly Isenhower
31-Jan	Eugene & Diana Long

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

sharman@concordinc.org

828.464.3324

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>JANUARY 2023</h1>						
4 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 10:10am Pew Sisters – Library 10:10am The Story – A#1 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts	5 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts	6 10am Christian Book Club 6:30pm Men's Bible Study - BLCFM	7  7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	1 New Year's Day 8am Church Office open until 11a	2 Church office closed 1pm Blood Drive 2pm Joyful Stitchers – BLCFM 	3
11 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts 	12 6pm Assimilation - Library 6:30pm Scouts	13 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting 11:30am PrimeTimers - EM  5:30pm Mission & Ministry - A#1 6:30pm Board of Christian Ed-Library 6:30pm Day School Board - CCDS Library 6:30pm Elders - EM	14  7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	15 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM 2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM	16 2pm Joyful Stitchers – BLCFM 	17
18 8am LLL 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts 	19 1:30pm Quilt Tacking 6:30pm Scouts	20 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting 10am Christian Book Club 12pm Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Stewardship – EM 6:30pm Men's Bible Study - BLCFM	21  7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM 2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM 6:30pm Church Council - EM	23	24 5pm Chili Cook-off – FLC 
25 9am Worship & Communion 9:50am Morning Fellowship 10:10am Christian Education 11am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Scouts 	26 1pm LWML - EM 6:30pm Scouts	27 8:30am Staff Devotion & Weekly Meeting	28  7am Ladies Bible Study - EM 5:45pm Handbells 6:30pm Praise Band 7:15pm Choir	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study - EM 2pm Pastor's Bible Study - EM	30	31