



JULY 2025

THE FORTRESS

Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Preschool & Academy

DATES TO NOTE

- 7.20 . Sunday School - 9:00 am
One Service - 10:00 am
Pew Removal & Lunch
- 7.21 . Sanctuary Carpet Begins
- 8.1 . Preschool Trivia Night
- 8.2 . Preschool Palooza
- 8.3 . Dedication Services
- 8.24 . Step-up Sunday &
Church Picnic

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Swaddling Clothes

Sign-up or contact Jamie Kotovsky

CLP 25th Anniversary Celebration

Contact Stephanie Prochaska

Sunday School & YOW!

Contact the Board of Ed

IT'S CID CONVENTION TIME!

From Pastor

Dear Members of the Household of God,

It's Central Illinois District Convention time! During the Bible Study hour a few Sundays in June, we examined the Resolutions the District Convention will be considering in Springfield, IL July 13th-15th. While every Resolution should impact each congregation of the District in one way or another, the District specifically requested each congregation be made well-aware of two Resolutions:

Resolution 25-2-01a To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the CID

Resolution 25-2-04 To Annualize Congregational Assessments

Resolution 25-2-04 seeks to simplify congregational budgeting for district events year-to-year. The respective monetary assessments gathered from each congregation for official district events fluctuates year by year. This Resolution would have the District estimate the assessments for the coming triennium, divide by 3, and share with each congregation their respective amount for budget planning. Some Districts already do this. Our Bible Study, and the Church Council, have given their approval of this Resolution.

Resolution 25-2-01a is a little more intricate. At the convention in 2022, a Resolution for the Mission Campaign "Dollar for Missions" was passed. It was hoped this initiative would supply funds for various Mission Projects in the CID. Giving and funding did not happen as hoped. We have many mission sites in and owned by the CID in need of repairs and other financial support. Ministry in Spanish, Deaf Ministry, and Campus Ministry are the special focus of this new campaign, along with support for the CID Office property (where a mission church is also meeting, and our District Archives are stored). We are well-aware of the need for Word and Sacrament Ministry in Spanish, for the Deaf, and for our college students, and that structurally functional buildings and staff to carry out the mission work we are unable to do are necessary. This initiative will launch a funding campaign to raise \$1.5 million dollars for the initial repairs and needs. Then, after the first \$1.5, another \$1.5 million dollars will be raised for endowments for the expected future needs for each mission. The passage of this Resolution would then replace Dollar for Missions. More information about this giving opportunity should be shared by the District Office in the near future. Voting "yes" to this Resolution will indicate Concordia's intent to support this campaign.

I sought some clarification from Pastor Eddy on a few points of this Resolution that were discussed in Bible Study. After our conversation I am more comfortable with this Resolution. My hope is Concordia continues to be the receiving, praying, giving, and caring congregation I know it to be. May we make the best use of every opportunity we have for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our church, homes, community, CID, and even world for the salvation of everyone who will hear and believe in Jesus.

To see the rest of the CID Resolutions, you can either contact me and I'll share the list I have with you, or you can check out the CID convention workbook at the website:

www.cidlcms.org/Convention2025/

One more resolution to highlight:

Resolution 25-2-07 To Commemorate the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn.

Pastor Kuhn faithfully served in our District his entire pastoral career and served Concordia from 1979-1985. We heartily give thanks to God for Pastor Kuhn's faithfulness and his faithful ministry among us!

Pray for our District Convention, the last of all the conventions of the Districts of our Synod.

In Christ, the Lord of the Church,

Pasta Mueller

SANCTUARY CARPET REPLACEMENT!

The replacement of the sanctuary flooring will begin July 21st and is expected to finish the week of the 27th. **We will have a single Divine Service at 10:00 AM on July 20th, with Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:00 AM. After service, we need volunteers to help move all pews out of the sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall. A lunch will be provided for those who stay to help with the pews! We will also have a single service at 10:00 AM on July 27th.** The location of this service will be determined. Stay tuned for more information!

OPEN FOR SHOPPING - JULY 10TH 4-7 PM & JULY 26TH 9-NOON

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Sharing the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

Volunteer to help our community today!



This year is CLP's 25th anniversary!

We are celebrating God's blessings in a big way this summer:

August 1st

Trivia Night to support our Preschool's Tuition Assistance Fund beginning at 6:00 PM. Theme: Totally 2000

Reserve your table of 4 to 8 people by calling: (309) 944-3993 or emailing: office@concordiageneseo.com

August 2nd

Preschool Palooza!

Join us from 10 AM – 2 PM for fun, food, and friends at Concordia.

Buttons for those who attended CLP! A service project for all to help share God's love with others!

August 3rd

Services of Dedication & Celebration of God's Faithfulness
8:00 & 10:30 AM

All past & present friends of CLP are invited to come sing *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb* at one or both services.

ACADEMY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*From The CLA Parent &
Volunteer Squad & BOE*

Thank you to all who made CLA's 2025 Golf Outing a success! While it was a hot, sunny day, God blessed us with a wonderful breeze and a fun morning of golf at Valley View Golf Course in Cambridge.

Along with the volunteers and participants we want to give a special thanks to our sponsors:

Anderson Information Systems

MWS Rocks

Geneseo Veterinary Services

Geneseo Superwash

**Mechanical Construction
Services**

Hanford Insurance

Vandemore Funeral Homes

Geneseo Quick Lube

Geneseo Communications

Farm & Fleet - Geneseo

Please thank them for supporting the mission of CLA - to educate children in this life and prepare them for the next.



The Russell Klavon Curriculum Collection

In memory of Russ Klavon, the Academy is accepting donations toward the purchase of curriculum materials. On the CLA bulletin board, there are multiple ways to help. Take the book off the bulletin board and give the donation for the specific book to the office, reach out to help tape books, or add the mission of CLA to your prayer list. Thank you so much for all of your prayers, support, and work to help CLA prepare our students for this life and the next!

As CLA enters it's 4th year, we ask that you continue to share the new of our school! There are many in Geneseo and the surrounding communities that still are unaware of the opportunity to send their children to a Christian school.

Our mission is to provide
academic excellence
through a classical, Lutheran
Education in a
Christ-centered environment
and develop **lifelong learners**,
biblically sound **critical thinkers**
and **community leaders**
who serve with
humility, gratitude, and grace.



Memorize a verse with us!

Be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the
Lord, knowing that in the Lord
your labor is not in vain.

1Cor: 15:58





Concordia LWML met on June 10, 2025. Joyce Dodge was our leader and hostess for the day and opened with prayer. Joyce served a delicious strawberry cake.

For the devotion Joyce read small excerpts from the book “Dreams of Africa”. This book was written by several wives of missionaries that served in the missionary field many years ago. The wives shared many experiences they had while serving in a foreign country.

For our program we finished the Bible study that Kathy started last month on “Our Daily Prayer”.

We sang our hymn for the day “Holy Father, In Your Mercy”.

After the Bible study we had a short business meeting. Roll call was answered by sharing a favorite place you have visited or would like to visit. There were 10 members present. Our treasurer gave a report that we have \$1,015.02 in our bank account. We collected \$464.52 for mites. A letter was read from our seminary student Josh Bieri. Josh is starting his vicarage in Wisconsin. Correspondence was sent and newsletters shared.

There was a motion made and seconded that we continue supporting Josh Bieri while he is doing his vicarage. Motioned approved.

There was a mite box devotion and the mites were collected.

Our next meeting will be July 08, 2025 at 1:00. We will be having a Bible Study about “Prayer Gives My Life Balance”

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Kohrell

Join us for a district youth

**POOL
PARTY**

**July 13
2-5 PM**

Walking tacos, drinks, and sides provided.

Bring a dessert to share!

Transportation not provided.

**For more information,
contact Ryan Hull at (309) 507-2908.**

PEW PONDERINGS



From the Pew: For many years I thought I went to church every Sunday to worship and praise our God. I did just that in the prayers and hymns; however, after many years, it was revealed to me by a faithful pastor that the most important reason we go to church is so God can feed us with His Means of Grace, His Word and Sacrament. He knows we need to be fed by Him with a steady diet of His Word and Body and Blood. We need it for the forgiveness of our sins, for eternal life and salvation, for the strengthening of our faith and for the spiritual rest we so desperately need. This is nothing I do, but once again God does everything for me! Wow! This has changed my entire reason for going to church – not what I do for Him but what He does for me.

From the Pastor: God is our Creator and we are His beloved creatures. As Creator, He provides for us all we need for our body and life – now and eternally. To receive from Him what He gives to us is to fulfill our existence as human beings. Receiving from God what He wants to give to us is living by faith. While singing and praying are right and proper responses to God's goodness for us, God doesn't need these from us. If our prime focus of Church was to only praise and worship and pray to God, then there's no reason to go to Church every Sunday since these things can be done anywhere. But to receive the Divine Service of God at Church shifts our focus from what we are doing, to what God is doing in Church for us. God needs nothing from us, but He gives/serves us everything. Receiving the Means of Grace (Word and Sacraments) shows faith, for apart from the Means of Grace there is no other place and no other way that God grants to us His grace, forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus. Come to receive what God wants you to have through the preaching of the word and the proper administration of the Holy Sacraments for through these God gives you the blessings of Heaven through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

"Pew Ponderings" will be featured monthly as long as we have Ponderings submitted to Pastor. Anyone in the congregation may share their ponderings with Pastor, who will share and respond to it. All Pew Ponderings will be kept anonymous, unless otherwise directed. To submit your pondering, email your thoughts to Pastor Mueller at pastor@geneseolutheranchurch.com

In our prayers...

Concordia Family: Mary Miller, Joline Parrish, Lenore Vandevoord, Elizabeth Erdman, Paul Mosher, Jenni DeGerengel, Wendy & Jon Grunwald, Roger Hull, Jackson Kinnard, Phil Jahn, Cindy Wagoner, Fama Prokup, Martin Fleming, Sue Smithson, Julie Kuse, Janine Persefield, Lois Misfeldt, Brad Watters, our inactive members

Friends of Concordia: Steve Lee, Dan & Lisa Gordon, Tammy Bruns, Craig, Jim & Jennifer Garner, Jeff McQuaid, Kathy Remick, Jayson Sheldon, Barbara Sigwalt, Joe Moriarity, Debbie DelFiacco, Debbie Hardesty, Justin Rittenhouse, Megan & Daxton Crain, Ann Key, A.J. Gale, Judy & Gary Magnuson, Julie Fiers, Karen Wright, Helen Stewart, John Cross, John Gravitt, Tony Snell, Cameron Mayo, Joan Maier, Chris Frisk, Connie Wagner, Alice Wright, Ed Schulmeister, Stephanie Kursock, Joan McCarron

Our church workers. Our Synodical leaders: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison - Synod President, Rev. Michael Mohr - CID President. **Our nation's leaders:** especially President Trump and Governor Pritzker. **The Armed Forces, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.**

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact Pastor or the office. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or are admitted to the hospital, please call the church office. In the event of an after-hours emergency please contact Pastor at (309) 944-2827.

Funds Status as of May 30, 2025

Approved 2025 budget is \$346,182



Please continue to pray for the mission of Concordia.

As Christian stewards, let us constantly be reminded and thankful that all gifts – time, talent, and treasure – are gifts from God; and be encouraged to use them in God pleasing ways.

	May	Year-to-Date
Income	56,438.58	180,567.91
Expenses	20,760.08	148,357.46
Income Less Expense	35,678.50	32,210.45

Odds and Ends

- Some things remain the same but are important none the less!

Please put your name on pew envelopes. We want to give you credit for all your contributions on your year-end records. We appreciate your generosity to all the various missions/activities we sponsor and support!

Large Print Portals of Prayer are available to our members with vision difficulties. If you are in need of one, please contact Linda Hull or the church office.

Voter's Meetings - Become a voting member of our congregation and help make decisions for our church! The only conditions are being 18 years of age and a current member at Concordia. Please talk to Brian Wahlheim (Church President) or the church office for more details.

Next Voter's Meeting: October 12th - 1:30 PM

Remember: Please contact the office to inform us of a name, address, marital status, number, or email change.

If you admitted to a hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Concordia Lutheran or have a family member or friend call the office or Pastor Mueller. Otherwise, we may not be aware of your hospitalization. Thank you.

Check out the greeting cards in the display rack! For only \$1.00 you can get a pretty card for your occasion and the money goes to LWML missions.

The Fishbowl in the back of the church is a collection for the repair of our musical equipment. We are blessed to have wonderful instruments to help us "make a joyful noise"; let's keep them tuned up and in good condition!



316 S Oakwood Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254
 (309) 944-3993 · office@concordiageneseo.com
 www.concordiageneseo.com

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Brian Wahlheim – President
 Allison Drockelman – Secretary
 Mindy Brown – Treasurer

DEACONS & MEMBER LAST NAMES:

Shawn Anderson & Brian Wahlheim	A-C
Mark Ouart & Andy Raschke	D-G
Derek Drockelman & Greg Wisely	H-K
Dick McMullen & Don Miller	L-N
Bill Kramer & Jeremy Dodge	O-R
Kenny Grom & Ryan Hull	S-Z

NEXT FORTRESS DEADLINE:

Tuesday, July 15

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
 School Year – 8am-3pm
 Non-School Day – 9am-Noon

DIRECTORY

Rev. Stephen Mueller

pastor@geneseolutheranchurch.com
 (309) 944-2827

Stephanie Prochaska, Office Administrator
 concordia@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Amy Roberts, Preschool Teacher
 preschool@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Katie Coppejans, Academy Teacher
 kcoppejans@concordialutheranacademy.com

Erica Johnson, Resource Secretary
 resource@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Mindy Brown, Treasurer
 bookkeeper@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Nicky Litwiler, Custodian
 custodian@geneseolutheranchurch.com

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Every Monday (Sept-May)
 6:30 PM – Bible Study

Every Tuesday (Sept-May)
 10:00 AM – Bible Study

Every Wednesday (Sept-May)
 YOW!
 3:30 PM – SPARKS
 5:00 PM – Breaking Bread Meal
 5:30 PM – Catechism Class
 5:30 PM – ROCKS

1st Thursday
 6:30 PM – BOE Meeting

2nd Tuesday
 1:00 PM – LWML Meeting
 4:00 PM – Stewardship Meeting

2nd Thursday
 1:00 PM – CLL Meeting
 4-7 PM – Swaddling Clothes Open
 6:00 PM – Care Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of Jan, May, Oct
 1:30 PM – Voters Assembly

2nd Monday (Aug-May)
 Pastor at Circuit Pastor's Winkel

3rd Sunday
 12:30 PM – Deacon's Meeting

3rd Thursday
 6:30 PM – Council Meeting

4th Thursday
 6:30 PM – Evangelism Meeting
 6:30 PM – Trustee Meeting

4th Saturday
 9 AM-Noon – Swaddling Clothes Open

4th Sunday
 3:00 PM – Pastor at Allure for Service

July Special Dates:

20th – one service at 10:00 AM – pew
 removal and lunch after service

27th – one service at 10:00 AM – location TBD