The MAY 2025 FORTRESS

Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Preschool & Academy

Dear Easter Celebrators,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

During the 40 days after Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared alive to His disciples many times. God wants to make it unmistakable and absolutely clear to the world that Jesus, who was crucified, is risen. Death is defeated! "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus

Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:56-58). "Not in vain", for, having life, we labor for life for and with Christ! Life now, and the life that we have stored up for us in the resurrection to eternal life.

God raised [Jesus] up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. Acts 2:24

In the Church on Easter morning, we hear the journey of the women to the tomb, and Peter and John's sprint to see it empty. The following Sunday we hear Jesus' appearances in the Upper Room on Easter evening, and then 8 days later again when "doubting

Thomas" is also with the assembly. A week later we hear the 3rd time Jesus appears to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberius. There the disciples have another large catch of fish. Jesus also reinstates Peter, predicts his death, answers a question about the life of John, and commands His disciples to "Follow Me." And we cannot forget His appearance to the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus on Easter afternoon!

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Romans 6:9 In 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul lists other appearances by the risen Lord: that He appeared to Cephas, and to more than 500 brothers at one time. Jesus then appeared to James, then to the disciples telling them to stay in Jerusalem, then to all the apostles at the Mount of Olives as they witness Him ascend into heaven. Then, Paul humbly recounts, Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus and in Arabia (Galatians 1:17)

Certainly, Christ is risen! 40 Days later, He ascended into heaven in the presence of His disciples. The ascension of the risen Christ to the right hand of God in heaven sets Him above all things in heaven and on earth. Think of the Ascension as Jesus' coronation ceremony. The right hand of God is the place of authority (*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been give to me" Matthew 28:19)*, power, and honor as the King and Lord over all that belongs to God the Father. But Jesus not trapped in heaven. He promises His continued presence with His people and in His Church. The risen, living, and ascended Christ will be where He promises to be for you: In the Means of Grace (Word, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Absolution), in His Church! He strengthens and sustains your faith and life until you see Him face to face on the day of His final coming—the day of the resurrection of all flesh and the final judgment of the living and the dead.

This year, the Church celebrates the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday, May 29th. At Concordia, we will again be celebrating this, the 3rd highest Feast Day of the Church year with the Divine Service at 7:00pm on the 29th. 10 days later, on Sunday, we will celebrate the birthday of the Church at Pentecost as Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit upon His disciples, to fill the world with the saving Gospel, calling all people to "Follow me" through this life, to the life of the world to come. *Christ is risen!*

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11

In Christ, our Risen Lord,

Pastor Mueller





Sign-up for VBS 2025! Monday, June 9 - Friday, June 13 9:00 - 11:30am at Concordia



This year's VBS will be the ultimate woodsy adventure where northern lights glow over racing rivers, majestic lakes, and glistening glaciers. Your kids will explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world and learn that Jesus is a faithful friend we can trust, our True North forever! Each day at True North VBS, kids will trek the tundra in field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible truths and lifechanging faith formations.

VBS is for ages 3-yrs-old to entering 6th grade in fall 2025. Preschoolers must be independent in the bathroom.

Volunteers have a very special role in helping kids know and grow in Jesus' love. Areas to serve include crew leaders, games, snacks, and more. <u>Volunteer sign-up is available in the Fellowship Hall!</u>

* There is a Volunteer's Meeting May 14th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall *

Questions? Contact Bonnie Myers or Meghan Haverland.



Who's in the Pew? The Oaks Family! Matt & Janea Oaks are recent members to Concordia with their children Eliana, Kysen, Xayden, Axten & Tahlya. Matt works for SHI International Corp. as a Senior Strategy Partner Manager and Janea is the teacher for the CARES Program at Geneseo High School. Eliana is 17 and a Junior, Kysen is 14 and in 8th grade, Xayden is 12 and in 7th grade, Axten is 10 and in 4th grade, Tahyla is 8 and in 2nd grade. The Oaks' family members enjoy soccer, gymnastics, jiujitsu, reading, crocheting, coding, online gaming, playing in the school band, and singing. As a family they are frequently camping, taking family walks/hiking and are looking forward to go fishing more often and visiting state parks. Matt's parents live in Coal Valley and Matt's

sister who lives in Orion. Matt's other siblings live in Oklahoma and Texas. Janea's mom, Lynn Klavon is a member of Concordia, Janea has one brother who lives in Geneseo and the other brother lives near Peoria, IL.

Enrollment for the '25-'26 school year is OPEN for CLP & CLA!



Concordia is beyond blessed to be able to provide education to children in our community that is rooted in Lutheran tradition, centered on Christian love, and offers high academic standards. Our desire to partner with parents in the instruction and upbringing of their children began over 150 years ago with Concordia's original school and carries on to today.



Register your 3-year-old to 5th grader today or share this opportunity with others!



Swaddling Clothes - For those who would like to volunteer the duties are simple - welcoming those who come to utilize our program, having them sign a waiver, and then helping them pack up the items they will take home. There may also be clothes to sort or diapers to count and package. Please consider helping and sign up on the sheet on the Swaddling Clothes bulletin board outside of the nursery! God bless you for your help!

Shopping hours will be held on: May 8th from 4:00-7:00 PM & May 24th from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Sign up with a partner today for CLA's annual Golf outing!June 21, 2025• Valley View Country Club - 9701 Illinois Hwy 82, Cambridge • 7:30am check in
You and a partner will play 18 holes of golf with a cart, enjoy a clubhouse lunch for 2,
receive 2 drink tickets, and 2 event shirts for \$160. Visit: golf.geneseolutheranchurch.com



"Thank you to everyone for their cards, thoughts, and prayers during my illness. I truly appreciate your care and concern. I look forward to seeing you all in person again soon!" - Joline Parrish

May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>I</i> 6:30 PM BOE Meeting	2	3
4 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service	5 6:30 PM Bible Study	6 10:00 AM Bible Study	7 YOW! 3:30 PM SPARKS 5:00 PM Meal 5:30 PM ROCKS	8 1:00 PM CLL Meeting 4-7 PM Swaddling Clothes Open 6:00 PM Care Committee Meeting	Q	10
 11 Mother's Day 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service 	12 Pastor at Circuit Pastor's Winkel 6:30 PM Bible Study	<i>13</i> 10:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM LWML Mtg 4:00 PM Stewardship Meeting	14 6:30 PM VBS Volunteer's Meeting	15 SLEP N ADLINK	16 Last day of CLP	17
18 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service 12:30 PM Deacon's Mtg 1:30 PM Voter's Assembly	19	20	21	22 6:30 PM Evangelism Meeting 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	23 Last day of CLA	24 9 AM - 12 PM Swaddling Clothes Open
25 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service	26	27	28	29 7:00 PM Ascension Day Service	30	31

May 2025



Members who are 18 years old and younger

- Thea Mueller
- 16 Vanessa Larreynaga
- 17 Holden Boone
- 25 Avery Anselmi
- 27 Brennen Brown
 - Gemma Wahlheim



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	<i>i</i>	
3	Jeremy & Amy Dodge	28 years
	Jason & Joann Kinnard	14 years
4	James & Michelle Glazier	40 years
	Karl & Kristi Ott	23 years
6	Ben & Stacy Franklin	19 years
22	Brian & Vicki Wahlheim	43 years
23	Don & Barb Miller	61 years
25	Jonathon & Renee Fleming	12 years
	Cameron & Jamie Kotovsky	11 years
28	Derek & Allison Drockelman	31 years



- Peg Moriarity
- 11 Arline Sigwalt
- 18 Don & Barb Miller
- 25 Kotovsky

DEACON SCHEDULE

4

8:00 AM: Dick McMullen & Don Miller

> 10:30 AM: Derek Drockelman & Greg Wisely





- © Child Birthday 12 years or younger
- * Senior Birthday 80 years or older
 - 1 Rhonda Erickson
 - 2 Cheryl Maxson
 - 3 Brooke Anselmi
 - Jake Grunwald
 - 4 Sarah Hansen
 - 5 Thea Mueller ©
 - 7 Emma Dodge Ryan Hull
 - Kaia Parrish ©
 - 9 Linda Conley
 - 11 Kevin Parker
 - 12 Vi Fleming *
 - 13 Megan Coulter
 - 16 Jackie Rice
 - 17 Ron Miller *
 - Henry Possin ©
 - Jimmie Jagers
 Andy Foster
 - Samantha Watters
 - 24 Brad Hull
 - 25 DeAnna Coulter Doris Peterson *
 - 26 Hannah Rakestraw
 - 27 Wendy Grunwald
 - Jeana Jagers
 - 28 Riley Coulter
 - 29 Riley Ott



Lynn Klavon & Vicki Wahlheim



Blessings and Greetings to our Concordia Church Family!

We are in the final month of preschool! It's hard to believe we're here. God has blessed us so much this year with good growth, gifts, and friends. We are so thankful when we see the work He's done in our classrooms. We have many who will go to kindergarten this year and some who will have another year with us. Each child has shown growth in all areas of development: cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and language from the work we do here. More than that, they have grown in the knowledge of Jesus and God's word. When our students leave for the

summer, we want them to know God loves them and Jesus is with them always. We pray that the seeds sown will continue to grow!



Thank you for partnering with us this year and being workers in the field in planting these seeds! Your prayers, support, and gifts are what God uses to make a life-long impact for our youngest learners. We are grateful for your generosity and partnership!

In our remaining time together, we will release the butterflies we've watched develop from caterpillars. Kindergarteneligible students are participating in enrichment activities, including extended day sessions to prepare them for kindergarten. Our mission this year is to bless a community organization that blesses so many of God's creatures, the Henry County Humane Society. We are conducting a drive for supplies to give them along with this year's offerings. We will make the most of every day remaining in the school year by learning and growing and playing by God's grace. God bless you all for your support! We are so thankful for our church family!

In Christ, Amy Roberts



One of Concordia's missions is right here in our church!

Concordia Lutheran Preschool is the only preschool program in Geneseo that shares the message and love of Jesus with its students every day. What an amazing way to share the love of God with children that may otherwise not hear the word of our Lord! Want to help give the blessing of a Christian education? Donate or even sponsor a preschool student! Please contact the office for more details.



Concordia Lutheran Academy, 2024-2025

Celebrating Springtime Learning and Service

April was a lively and enriching month at CLA as scholars embraced the season with curiosity, creativity, and care for God's creation! We began the month with a bit of laughter and imagination thanks to our April Fool's Day exploration of the rare and whimsical "Lirpa Loof Migration."

Easter celebrations brought joy to the classroom as we reflected on the resurrection of our Savior through themed activities, fellowship, and a cheerful Easter party filled with fun games and sweet treats.

Earth Day inspired hands-on stewardship: scholars learned how to care for the planet through science lessons, created thoughtful "Earth Pledge" artwork, and participated in a school-wide clean-up.

At the end of the month, we also enjoyed a peaceful park picnic, reveling in the fresh air and joyful fellowship as a school family.

As we prepare to close the school year, we are filled with gratitude for the growth, joy, and faith shared within our classroom. We are especially thankful for the ongoing prayers, generosity, and encouragement from our congregation and friends of CLA, which continue to sustain and uplift our mission.

As the school year draws to a close, don't forget:

- **CLA Open House will be held Sunday, May 18th at 4pm.** Friends of CLA and prospective new families are invited to see what we have been up to this year.
- The last day of class for the 24-25 school year is Friday, May 23!
- Registration is now open for incoming K-5th grade scholars for the 2025-2026 school year!
- We also invite you to join us for a fun day of fellowship and fundraising at our **CLA Golf Outing on Friday, June 21**. Mark your calendars - we'd love to see you there!

With hearts full of hope and thankfulness, we look ahead to a joyful conclusion to the year and a summer of continued blessings.



"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." ~ Proverbs 22:6



The LWML met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall.

Joyce Dodge opened our meeting with prayer and then we enjoyed a treat made by Diane Ouart. We had a short social time before the meeting started.

We all started our meeting singing the hymn, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus".

Our program for the day was filling the Resurrection Eggs for the kids for Easter.

Roll call was answered by naming someone that the Bible tells us to pray for.

The minutes to the last meeting were read and approved. Our Treasurer's report was given by Barb Miller with our checkbook balance of \$1,092.67.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thank you from Joyce to everyone who brought soup and treats and who helped clean up for the Lenten supper. Confirmation reminder to all who have confirmands names that confirmation is going to be here on April 27, 2025. Sherry checked with the funeral homes about serving luncheons after funerals. LWML and CLL will continue to share serving luncheons for the families of the deceased.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat reported on the Maundy Thursday luncheon. The menu will be ham balls, cheesy potatoes, salads, and pie. Lynn and Kathy will be our delegates to the Central Illinois District LWML convention on May 25 to 26, 2025. Our next meeting will be May 13th, 2025, starting at noon with a potluck. We will be having a Bible study as our program. Subject to be determined.

We had a Mite Box devotion and the Mites were collected.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Kohrell

Concordia Ladies League

Concordia Ladies League met on April 10, 2025 with 9 members present. Hosting for the day were Sharon Blackert and Judy Deutsch. They served pan chocolate chip cookies, nuts and candies on an Easter themed table. Our question of the day was: Who was/is your favorite relative? We went around the table so everyone could answer that question.

Sharon read a devotion "Love you more". Mary Hull took attendance and read the minutes for January and March. They were approved as read. Janett Farnum gave the treasurer's report and it was approved as read.

A motion was made and passed that we send Joy Noard a roll of stamps to continue sending out cards. Joy Noard sent out cards to: Marilyn Yerkey and Janet Coppejans (sympathy); Joline, Parish, Deb Williams, Fama Prokup, Darlene Ball, and Marcia Himmelman (Easter); Lenore VandeVoorde (get well); Reegan Brown, Josie Franklin, and Ephraim Mueller (confirmation).

We closed our meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Hull, Secretary



Funds Status as of March 31, 2025

Year-to-Date

Approved 2025 budget is \$346,182

Please continue to pray for Concordia and the important work planned and approved by the

Income\$ 39,478.46\$ 97,312.63Expenses\$ 28,400.24\$ 101,571.61Income less expenses\$ 11,078.22\$ -4,258.98

March

Voters 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.

Congratulations to our members who will make these marital milestones in May!

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Brian & Vicki Wahlheim43 yearsDon & Barb Miller61 years

This is a reminder to 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: May 18th - 1:30 PM

REMEMBER: Please contact the office to inform us of any name, address, marital status, email, or phone changes.

Reminder...when you enter 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 for the roof and window loans were so successful, it was decided we would continue with the Fishbowl in the back of the church. We will now use the funds collected to repair our musical equipment, as in our organ.

Do you know your Deacon Team?

Each deacon team is assigned a section of the alphabet that covers the **last names** of members. Please feel free to contact your deacon team with any matters pertaining to the welfare of the congregation!

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



June Deadline: May 15th







The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is open: Mondays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; and Fridays 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Food is distributed, and donations are gratefully accepted during business hours. We also have collection boxes in the vestibule at Fareway, NOSH and at Inspire Continuing Care for donations. The Food Pantry will be closed on Memorial Day, May 26.

Because of the community's generous support, the Food Pantry provided food and assistance to **386** households in March. Thanks to the many donors who make all this possible!

Thank you to the **Geneseo Boy Scout Troops** for collecting food during the Scouting for Food Drive. They collected nearly 1300 pounds of food! Our guests are happy to have a nice variety of items to choose from.

Thank you to the **Geneseo Girl Scouts** for donating baskets of food for Easter dinner and Easter candy baskets for kids! What a kind gesture!

Dietitians from Hammond-Henry Hospital taught a free healthy cooking class on April 8 in the Matthew 25 Center at the Food Pantry. Guests were provided with recipes for lower cost healthy dishes, a cooking demonstration, and free samples of healthy food. The Dietitians will be back to teach another healthy cooking class on May 15 at 1:00, and the public is invited.

The Food Pantry partners with **Wright Foot Left** and **Sole Relief** to provide two Foot Care Clinics to the public each month. Nurses soak feet, trim and file toenails, help with ingrown toenails, and give a light foot massage with lotion. Please call 309-944-3165 or email <u>geneseopantry1@gmail.com</u> to make an appointment. Cost is \$37 but Food Pantry guests are given a voucher.



The Food Pantry is collecting **school supplies**, which will be distributed to Geneseo Schools students in need in August. Here is a list of what is needed: #2 yellow pencils,1" 3-ring binder, 1-1/2" 3-ring binder, Pencil pouch (3-hole, zippered), Book covers (Jumbo), Calculator (scientific), Clorox or Lysol wipes, Colored pencils (12 ct), Colored pencils (24 ct), Composition book (Wide ruled), Craft Felt (4 assorted colors, 9×12 felt), Crayola Broad Line markers (10-count), Crayola markers (12 ct), Crayola crayons (24-count), Crayola crayons (8-count), Divider tabs with pockets, Dry erase

markers (Expo Fine tip), Dry erase markers (Wide), Elmer's purple glue stick, Elmer's extra-large glue stick, Fiskar safety scissors, Headphones with straight plug, Highlighters (yellow), Index cards (3×5"), Kleenex, Large book bag, Loose leaf paper (wide ruled), Paper Plates (100 ct), Paper towels, Pens, blue or black, Pink Pearl erasers, Plastic pencil box (cigar style), Plastic pocket folder with 3-hole, Plastic pocket folder with prongs, Post It Notes (3×3"), Red pens, Scissors (student size), Scotch brand painter's tape (1 in.), Sharpie Markers (Fine black), Spiral notebooks (100 page), Spiral notebooks (wide ruled, 70 page), Spiral notebook (3-subject), Ticonderoga yellow #2 pencils (10 count). Please drop off any school supply donations at the Food Pantry by August 1. We also have a **school supplies wish list on Amazon** so you can have donations shipped to the Food Pantry. Let's help ease the burden on families in need! Anyone whose Geneseo School District student is in need of school supplies should sign up with the Food Pantry.



Our **Volunteer of the Month, Ethan Kimbel**, has been volunteering at the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry for 1-1/2 years. He is a student at Geneseo High School in the Life Skills program. Ethan stocks shelves, sorts and packages items, and breaks down boxes for the recycle bin. In his free time, Ethan enjoys Wheel of Fortune, watching videos and playing games on his tablet. He said the best thing about volunteering at the Food Pantry is getting to see the new DVDs that have been donated. Ethan has enjoyed learning and using new skills including following directions, counting by twos and sorting items while helping the community. Thank you for all your help, Ethan!

If you want to: Achieve significant life changes; feel empowered to live a more functional, effective, and healthy life; receive help developing and reaching your goals; pursue your goals and ambitions with the support and guidance of your coach, then the **Five Loaves** program is perfect for you! Register for this free, confidential, program by calling the Food Pantry at 309-944-3165 or email: geneseopantry1@gmail.com

The clothing room is especially in need of: all sizes children's clothing, socks, underwear, sheet sets, and towels. Food Needs: Cereal, granola bars, 100% juice, pancake mix, syrup.

Non-Food Needs: Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, and lotion.



Join Us for Worship at Concordia!

Important Dates to Note:

May 14	VBS Volunteer Meeting	6:30 PM
May 18	CLA Open House Youth Event	4-5 PM 12:30 PM
May 29	Ascension Day Service	7:00 PM
June 9-13	VBS	9:30-11:00 AM
June 21	CLA Golf Outing	7:30 AM

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - 9:30 AM

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor Parsonage phone (309) 944-2827

Lutheran Hour Ministry	Radio Program:
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<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	Freq	<u>Day</u>	Time
WGEN	Kewanee, IL	1500 AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WKEI	Kewanee, IL	1450 AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WGN	Chicago, IL	720 AM	Sun	6:30 AM
WMT	Cedar Rapids, IA	600 AM	Sun	6:30 AM
KCLN	Clinton, IA	1390 AM	Sun	9:30 AM



Updating Prayer List - As we pray continually for all the saints of God and for our Church family, there have been questions, by praying members, wondering how people on our prayer list are doing. Please contact the church office and let us know how the person you asked to be added to the prayer list is doing.

Please continue to pray for:

Concordia Family: 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 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