



# PARISH PARTYLINE

## Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

March 2024

### Pastor

Pastor Deb Hammer  
pastoratcandf@gmail.com  
(402) 518-0423

### Secretary

Bridgett Connell  
secretaryatcf@gmail.com  
(402) 841-3110

### CLC Council Members

Dan Nolte  
Pam Anderson  
Peg Lutt  
Zach Harder  
Mandy Bruning  
Dustin Thompson

### FLC Council Members

Vickie Sands  
Katie Olesen  
Gloria Dowling  
Denise Hingst  
Richie Monteith  
Lyle Carlson

### Concordia Lutheran Church

584-2471  
Facebook:  
Concordia Lutheran Church, ELCA

### First Lutheran Church

635-2461  
Website:  
www.firstlutheranallen.com  
Facebook:  
First Lutheran Church,  
ELCA~Allen, NE

## Announcements

**FLC Online Giving** is available at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z1PQ>

**CLC E-giving option** using your cell phone: Download the app "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement", search for "Concordia Lutheran Church ELCA" and set up your account. Contact Judy Martindale (402-369-0909) if you need assistance.

**CLC Driveway fund update:** We have raised all the money needed for the Driveway. Thank you for your donations.

**Lenten Services will have fellowship after in the church basement.**

**FLC WELCA** will have a meeting and Bible Study (Genesis 3:1-13) on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Bible Study: Jean M. Hostess: Pastor Deb

**HOPE Circle** will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Hillcrest. Hostess: Danita

**WELCA Spring Gathering Registration is open.** The form is in this newsletter and available at both churches.

**Service men and women** continue to need to hear from home, friends, and family. Please consider sending a "Thinking of You", "Thank You for Your Service", or just a short personal note to our current service members:

**DG Christopher Wordekemper**

101B Cariaga Ct.  
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613

**Taylor Johnson**

7541 Murray Hill, Apt 838  
Columbia, MD 21046

### CLC Council positions for 2024-2025:

CLC President - Peg Lutt  
Vice President - Zach Harder  
Secretary - Pam Anderson  
Financial Liaison - Mandy Bruning  
Property - Dan Nolte  
Projects - Dustin Thompson

### FLC Council positions for 2024-2025:

President: Richie Monteith  
Vice President: Lyle Carlson  
Secretary: Vickie Sands  
Treasurer: Katie Oleson



*We remember in our prayers those who need our prayers.*

Paul Boyle  
Court Roberts

*We remember those in care facilities or homebound.*

Betty Carr (Homebound)  
Bonnie Kellogg  
(Wakefield Care Center)  
Frieda Bowman (Hillcrest)  
Lyla Swanson (Kinship Pointe)  
Marilyn Wallin (Country View)  
Fern Erickson (Kinship Pointe)  
Shirley Lanser (Homebound)  
Elaine Lubberstedt  
(Homebound)  
Doris Nelson (Hillcrest)  
Court Roberts  
(Heritage of Emerson)

*We remember those serving in the armed forces.*

Chris Wordekemper  
Taylor Johnson

*Concordia Members*  
Raegan Reifenrath  
Trish & Rusty Reifenrath;  
Izac, Shelby Workman  
Grant & Brandi Settje;  
Kolten, Taelynn, Ryker  
Kenny & Kristina Steinle;  
Emmit, Everly  
Tammy Sterling

*First Lutheran Members*  
Greg & Ann Carr; Noah, Jordyn  
Loren & Betty Carr  
Shane & Bridgett Connell;  
Keiziah, Tristan, Mackenzey, Hunter  
Gloria Dowling  
Nancy Ellis

If you know of any person in need of prayers, please call the church office at 635-2461 and leave a message if no one answers.

## Worship Helpers & Celebrations

	First Helpers	Concordia Helpers
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Olesen Family	Dan Nolte & Grant Settje
<b>Acolytes</b>		3/3 Cade Johnson 3/10 Tanner Thompson 3/17 Hunter Nolte 3/24 Jayson Wayman 3/31 Taelynn Settje
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Olesen Family	Judy Martindale
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Katie Olesen	Lynette Krie
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Barb Sands	Alissa Thompson, Trish Reifenrath, Andrea Johnson, Brandi Settje
<b>Altar Flowers</b>		Lynette Krie
<b>Power Point</b>	Olesen Family	
<b>Coffee after Service</b>	3/3 Donna Schroeder 3/10 Olesen Family 3/17 Tom & Bea Osbahr 3/24 Henry & Clarice Johnson 3/31 Easter	

### Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia

3/2 Trish Reifenrath  
3/3 Pam Anderson  
3/3 Turner Thompson  
3/4 Hart & Mary Vollers  
3/5 Jayson Wayman  
3/5 Audra Corbit  
3/7 Jason Fischer  
3/7 Emmitt Steinle  
3/9 Jeremy Christiansen  
3/13 Pastor Deb Hammer  
3/19 Jeremy & Sheri Christiansen  
3/20 Amanda Fischer  
3/22 William Anderson  
3/22 Dustin & Alissa Thompson  
3/25 Grant & Brandi Settje  
3/30 Frieda Bowman



### Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First

3/11 Cole Monteith  
3/13 Scott Morgan  
3/13 Pastor Deb Hammer  
3/25 Jordyn Carr  
3/27 Paul & Colleen Boyle  
3/31 Reed Hingst



# Spring Gatherings 2024



## “Open Our Hearts—Listen, Be Kind, Pray!

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him; because he cares for you.”

—1 Peter 5:6-7 NRSV

Offering designated as follows: 60% Churchwide Women's Organization, 20% Katie's Fund "2122", and 20% Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization

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### Spring Gatherings 2024 Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State + Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation/City \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject to Change, refer to updates found on the website.** Please mark which Spring Gathering you are attending:

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date	Conference	City	Deadline
Send form and \$20.00 payment to: Julie Reiser, NSWO Treasurer PO Box 64 Butte, NE 68722 nsw.o.treasurer@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	March 2	High Plains	No. Platte	Feb. 21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	March 9	So. Prairie	Ruskin	Feb. 28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 6	Southeast	Syracuse	March 27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 13	Central	Gr. Island	April 3
	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 20	Northeast	W. Point	April 10
Check payable to: Women of the ELCA	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 27	Metro East	Omaha	April 17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	May 4	Midlands	Fontanelle	April 24

Registration fee is transferable for one-year, not refundable

Thank You

Dear Concordia Lutheran,  
Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you do as God's people in Concord. Thank you especially for your continued participation in mission share. Through you, and because of you, so much good work is done in the world, and so many lives are changed out of God's love made real through you. Together we "Go and..." as God's people, cultivating love as Jesus' disciples. Please know that your congregation is prayed for daily by your grateful siblings in Christ, near and far. Thank you for sharing God's love with the world!  
God's peace and blessings,  
Timothy

NE  
NEBRASKA SYNOD ELCA

*My story is Your story is Christ's story is Our story*  
MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING 2.0

**SERVICE AND STORYTELLING**  
**APRIL 13, 2024: 9:30 AM-6:30 PM**  
**FOUR LOCATIONS**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN GRAND ISLAND	HOLY TRINITY SIDNEY	SHERIDAN LUTHERAN LINCOLN	SALEM LUTHERAN DAKOTA CITY
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A Synod wide day of service for middle school youth (5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories.

*"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17*

Sharing faith stories can be hard for all of us, but especially for middle school youth. How do we listen to others whose story may not be the same as ours? How do we hear Christ's story in their story? How do our daily encounters shape how we tell the story? How do we share THE story of the Good news of God's love in words and deeds which is a story for all of us?

# Ministry Opportunities

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**Council Meetings at FLC** – March 4<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. CLC, 7:00 p.m. Joint, 8:00 p.m. FLC

**FLC WELCA** – March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**Lenten Worship** – March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at CLC

**CLC Choir Practice** – March 6<sup>th</sup> following Worship

**HOPE Circle** – March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Hillcrest

**NE Synod Mission Trip** – March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Lenten Worship** – March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at FLC

**Lenten Worship** – March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at CLC

**Newsletter Deadline** – March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Maundy Thursday Worship** – March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at FLC

**Good Friday Worship** – March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at CLC

**Easter Services** – March 31<sup>st</sup>

7:30 a.m. at CLC with Breakfast following

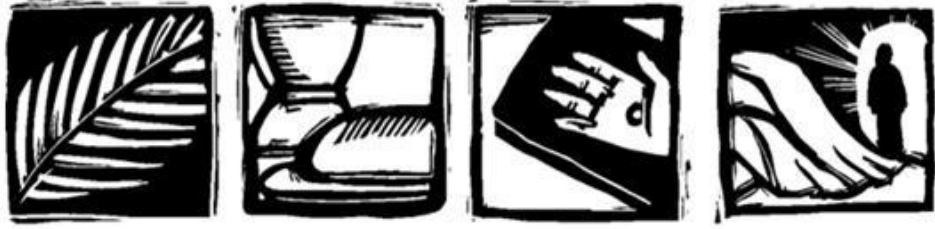
9:30 a.m. at FLC



Nebraska Synod Mission Trip will be joining hands with [ROAD](#) (Recovering Oklahoma After Disaster), dedicating our time during the week of March 11-15th to help rebuild lives disrupted by disaster.

First Lutheran Members Lyle & Jean Carlson along with Pastor Deb will be participating in the mission trip.

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Passion Sunday – March 24  
8:30 AM at FLC  
10:15 AM at CLC

Maundy Thursday – March 28  
7:00 PM at FLC

Good Friday – March 29  
7:00 PM at CLC

Easter Sunrise – March 31  
7:30 AM at CLC

Easter Worship – March 31  
9:30 AM at FLC

**From Angel Share to Lutheran Family Services:** Launched on the 140-year-old Dana College campus in 2021, the Angel Share project has already proven wildly successful with its current tenants – all of whom have aged out of the foster care system and are working and paying their own rent. Lutheran Family Services (LFS) is moving the campus to the next level. Early in 2024, LFS will open 61 more apartment units on site. During Lent, let us show our love by collecting items for Dana Village.

Donations to help tenants aging out of foster care:

Please, New Items Only!

- Brooms
- Mops & Buckets
- Dish Soap, Sponges
- Laundry Detergent
- Toilet Brushes
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Trash Bags
- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap



# Pastor's Article



*Matthew 22:36-39, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

The religious leaders in this Matthew passage have been questioning Jesus repeatedly with questions that summarily ask, "Which command in the law is the greatest?" In other words, what is the most important thing for us to do so we can be the best at it? But Jesus is noticeably clear. The most important thing any of us can do, the greatest command is LOVE. For God is the definition of love and we must love God with everything in us. Only then are we able to love ourselves and love others.

Friends, life is ultimately about relationships. The most important relationship in our life, is our relationship with God. That loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ gives us the capability to love ourselves and others all the more. Let us remember what the Apostle Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians, whatever we do without love is absolutely worthless. So, let us empty ourselves of everything that is incompatible with God's love and love Him unconditionally.

## Prayer

Father God we are excited to spend the Lenten season focused on Your love for us, our love for you and our love for others. Please help us to learn more about Your love and help us to love others unselfishly. Thank you for having Your Holy Spirit show us the greatest gift of all, Love through Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Peace and blessings to you during this journey to the cross for we do not arrive at Easter Sunday without going through the cross on Good Friday!

*Pastor Deb*



# GO AND...

## BE INTENTIONAL

Jesus is on the road to the cross and is prepared for what is to come. Too often during Lent, we find ourselves busy marching down the road with a long 'to-do' list. The season of Lent calls to be intentional. Be intentional with self-care. Be intentional by showing up, being present, and diving in deep as disciples of Christ.

### Questions to consider:

- What is a Lenten or Easter tradition in your family?
- How can you be intentional in your preparation for Holy Week and Easter?
- How can you get unstuck and *GO* forward with intention as a follower of Jesus?

### Prayer:

Be Intentional to pray the Lord's Prayer.

# **First Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights**

*One unified body of Christ, called to be agents of love and service to all!*

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First Lutheran Council met on February 5, 2024. Present were Pastor Deb Hammer, Katie Olesen, Gloria Dowling, Lyle Carlson, Denise Hingst, Richie Monteith, and Vickie Sands.

Election of officers was held. President-Richie M., Vice president-Lyle C., Treasurer-Katie O., Secretary-Vickie S., Financial secretary-Gloria D.

Pastor's report was read and discussed. Pastor will be gone on Synod Mission trip March 11-16.

Secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

## **Property Items:**

- No date yet on when the work to replace the basement lights will begin.
- We had a request to put a motion light outside the door. It was decided to leave it as is for now. If the outside light is left on, it can just stay on, since it is a low-cost LED light.

## **Old Business:**

- Altar Guild Communion station is now upstairs.
- Soup supper will be held February 25.

## **New Business:**

- WELCA will host fellowship after the Lenten service on February 28. Council will host on March 13.
- During Lent, cash offerings will go to Dana Village. Pastor Deb will also have a list of supplies needed by youth at Dana Village as they age out of foster care.
- Proceeds from the Farmer's Market in the summer will go to Neema Village.

Closing prayer by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

**Next meeting will be a joint council meeting on March 4. CLC will meet at 6:00, joint at 7:00, and FLC at 8:00.**



# Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

*Reflecting God's love in service to all through our family of faith!*

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The monthly meeting of the Concordia Council met February 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the church basement.  
Present: Pastor Deb, Peg Lutt, Zach Harder, Dan Nolte, Dustin Thompson, Mandy Bruning and Pam Anderson.

After opening prayer, the election of officers took place and the outcome follows: Peg – President; Mandy – Financial Liaison; Dan – Property Committee Leader; Zach – Vice President; Dustin – Projects Coordinator; and Pam – Secretary.

Judy Martindale was present for the Financial Secretary's Report and copies were available for the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January reports for Pastor, the Financials, Minutes, and the Treasurer's February payments, including a payment of \$66.00 for the Christmas ad to the Wayne Herald. Motion passed.

## **Old Business:**

Goals were discussed and finalized. The driveway fund is nearing its goal.

Zach is trying to meet with Stanley Steamers to get the basement carpet cleaned.

Discussion was held on the best time and day of month for Council to meet. We have the next two months set, and we will see how things work for everyone.

There is a broken window pane in the basement. Dan will look into repair.

Pam will notify the Synod office of our Constitution change.

Pastor will notify the Mutual Ministry Team when she's ready to start this goal.

## **New Business:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes with one word added. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Peg Anderson's resignation as Treasurer as of July 1, 2024. Motion passed. The Council would welcome anyone interested in this volunteer position and to please let a Council member know.

The Property Committee will look into purchasing a dehumidifier for the parsonage basement.

Concordia Council will provide bars for the Lenten service on February 21. We are also in charge of the Sunrise breakfast.

Our next meeting will be at First Lutheran on Monday, March 4 at 6:00 followed by Joint Council at 7:00.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn, followed by closing prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Anderson

# Mission Statement of Concordia Lutheran Church

*Reflecting God's Love in service to all through our family of faith.*

## COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2024

### 1. Faith Foundation of Concordia

- a. Be intentional with Prayer Partners.
  - Designate informal gathering events
- b. Strengthen and support Children's Ministry.

### 2. Mission Outreach

- a. Collaborate with First Lutheran to identify a local mission opportunity to be shared by both congregations.
- b. Join in mission with Lutheran Family Services and Dana Village Blair, NE

### 3. Physical Structure

- a. Remove front steps and connecting sidewalk. Replace with simple landscaping.
- b. Install sidewalk to the back door on east side.
- c. Complete siding repair (hail damage) of the church building.

### 4. Future

- a. Activate Mutual Ministry Team
- b. Lead by example with active participation in service projects and ministry opportunities.