



# Parish Partyline

## Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

January 2025

### Pastor

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

### Secretary

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

### CLC Council Members

Peg Lutt  
Zach Harder  
Mandy Bruning  
Dustin Thompson  
Grant Anderson  
Kenny Steinle

### 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

**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.

**Updates to Directory:** Please email updated information and/or pictures to Bridgett at [secretaryatcf@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryatcf@gmail.com) by January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Food Pantry Challenge:**

CLC \$600 (x 2 per dollar) =  
\$1200 + 59.80 pounds of food  
Total \$1259.80

FLC \$775 (x 2 per dollar) =  
\$1550 + 63 pounds of food  
Total \$1613.00

**Trophy Winner: First Lutheran Church**

**FLC WELCA will meet on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**

Lesson (Jonah 4:1-11) by Jean Morgan. Hostess: Jean Carlson.

**FLC Annual Meeting Reports** must be submitted to Bridgett by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**HOPE Circle will meet on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Kinship Pointe.**

### **FLC Ministry Celebration/Annual Meeting**

It's that time of year again, annual meetings! First Lutheran Church will be having their Ministry Celebration/Annual Meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> following worship. Please plan to attend.

**CLC Annual Meeting Reports** must be submitted to Bridgett by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **CLC Ministry Celebration/Annual Meeting**

It's that time of year again, annual meetings! Concordia Lutheran Church will be having their Ministry Celebration/ Annual Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend. *Please note that worship will be at 10.15 a.m. with the Annual Meeting to follow.*

**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

**Jenna & Dylan Scholl**  
1224 W Redbud Court  
Andover, KS 67002



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

Peg Lutt  
Vicky Hingst  
Doug Kluver  
Court Roberts

*We remember those in care  
facilities or homebound.*

Loren & 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  
(Kinship Pointe)  
Court Roberts  
(Heritage of Emerson)

*We remember those serving  
in the armed forces.*

Chris Wordekemper  
Taylor Johnson  
Jenna & Dylan Scholl

#### *Concordia Members*

Don Pearson  
Rick & Donna Peterson; Cory  
Justin & Corrine Reifenrath;  
Ava  
Raegan Reifenrath  
Trish & Rusty Reifenrath;  
Izac, Shelby Workman

#### *First Lutheran Members*

Shirley Lanser  
Duane & Barb Lund  
Richie & Tina Monteith;  
Kiara, Cole, Landon  
Scott & Jean Morgan  
Jason & Katie Olesen;  
Josh, Gabe

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>	Henry & Clarice Johnson	Kenny Steinle & Hart Vollers
<b>Acolytes</b>		1/5 Presten Wayman 1/12 Easton Nolte 1/19 Bently Nolte 1/26 Lane Fischer
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Vickie Sands	Dustin Thompson
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Barb Sands	Harper Bruning
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Henry & Clarice Johnson	Judy Martindale
<b>Altar Flowers</b>		Brandi Settje
<b>Power Point</b>	Vickie Sands	
<b>Coffee after Service</b>	1/5 Jerry & Barb Sands 1/12 Karen & Jerry Smith 1/19 Gloria Dowling 1/26 Jerry & Barb Sands	

### **Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia**

1/3 Leila Fischer  
1/5 Cris Bathke  
1/8 Katie Bathke  
1/9 Lyla Swanson  
1/11 Toni Thompson  
1/13 Peg Lutt  
1/15 Joyce Johnson  
1/19 Ryker Settje  
1/22 Presten Wayman  
1/25 Kolton Fischer  
1/28 Richard Fischer  
1/29 Melvin Vanderheiden  
1/31 Valerie Hangman



### **Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First**

1/1 Darlene Roberts  
1/13 Hunter Connell  
1/16 Barb Sands  
1/24 Richie Monteith  
1/27 Katie Sullivan  
1/30 Katie Olesen

## Update on Pastor Deb Valentine.

Her daughters, Kari and Jenny, took her to the Marcus theater to see wicked.

Deb is at Tabitha  
4720 Randolph Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510



February 2-8, 2025 your Nebraska Synod Mission Trip folks will be returning to Oklahoma. We will again work through ROAD, Recovering Oklahomans after Disaster. Most of the work will be house repairs from tornados. ROAD is located out of Tulsa so we will be working somewhere in that area. I do not have the exact area. We will most likely stay at a church so we will need to bring air mattresses and bedding. Attendees will be responsible for splitting the cost of groceries for breakfast and lunch as well as travel expenses to Oklahoma. We plan to go to a local establishment for the evening meals. The Nebraska Synod Mission trip group is known for finding ice cream to cap off a good day of work.

Register at <https://nebraskasynod.org/event/adult-mission-trip-to-oklahoma-2025/>

## JOURNEY

NEBRASKA SYNOD ELCA



Date: July 6-12, 2025

Location: Nashville, TN

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship, and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table. Travel will be by Windstar motorcoaches, and housing will be in residence halls at Vanderbilt University, with an overnight stop each way in St. Louis. Each participating congregation is asked to register one adult leader for every six youth. Adult leaders must be at least 21 years of age.

### • Cost of event:

-Early bird (submitted before December 1, 2024): \$630

-Regular registration (submitted December 1, 2024-March 1, 2025): \$680

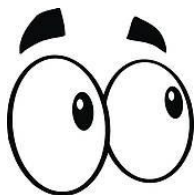
-\$130 per person deposit due with online early bird registration / \$180 per person for regular registration

-The deposit is non-refundable and registration cost includes, transportation, meals and lodging

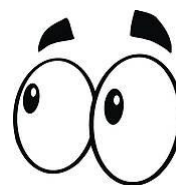
• Last date to register: March 1, 2025

Learn more &  
Register!





**Check out what happened  
last month at CLC!**

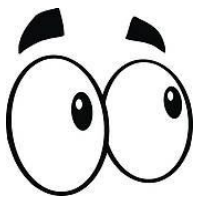


## **Advent Supper**

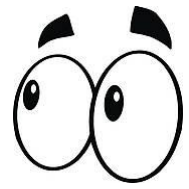


## **Christmas Program**





# Check out what happened last month at FLC!



Christmas Program: The meaning of Jesus and the candy cane.



Food drive competition and the traveling trophy was handed over to First Lutheran Church from Concordia. First Lutheran won the 2024 food drive.



First Lutheran Members donated gifts to Haven House! Haven House appreciates the gifts to help make a family's Christmas brighter!



**WELCA Ladies  
Advent Luncheon**

# Ministry Opportunities

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**FLC Council Meeting** – January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**FLC WELCA** – January 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**CLC Council Meeting** – January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**CLC Children's Ministry** – January 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Confirmation Class** – January 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**HOPE Circle** – January 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Kinship Pointe

**FLC Ministry Celebration** – January 19<sup>th</sup> following Worship

**Newsletter Deadline** – January 20<sup>th</sup>

**CLC Ministry Celebration** – January 26<sup>th</sup> following Worship



From Pastor Deb:

I wish to thank everyone for the Christmas gifts received! I loved each and every gift and I appreciate all of you. I am very blessed with all of your thoughtfulness! Thank you from my heart to yours!!!

Blessings, Pastor Deb

## Tanzania Information for Pastor Deb

- Pastor leaves on Feb 2 and returns on Feb 16, 2025
- Week 1 – Pastor will be visiting hospitals, schools, and orphanages.
- Weekend – Pastor will be staying at Kotela Parish. Kotel is a sister congregation of Our Savior Lutheran in Wayne. Pastor has much knowledge of Kotela Parish of schools built, nurses adopted, homes provided, motorcycles donated, and met some of their pastors as they came to Nebraska. Our Savior's Sunday School offerings pay the teachers salaries in one of the schools at Kotela Parish.
- Week 2 – Safari week to Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park.
- On call Pastor Sandra Braasch 904-316-4645
- **THANK YOU** for your support, gifts and especially tending to Sunday services while I am away. I look forward to this wonderful learning experience and especially connecting with our siblings across the world.

## Pastor's Article



# Cultivating Love Through PEACE



**John 16:33** *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Jesus left us His peace. Not peace like the world gives. A peace that surpasses our ability to understand where it came from. But what does that kind of peace look like? How do we cultivate love through peace?

### Cultivating the seeds of peace

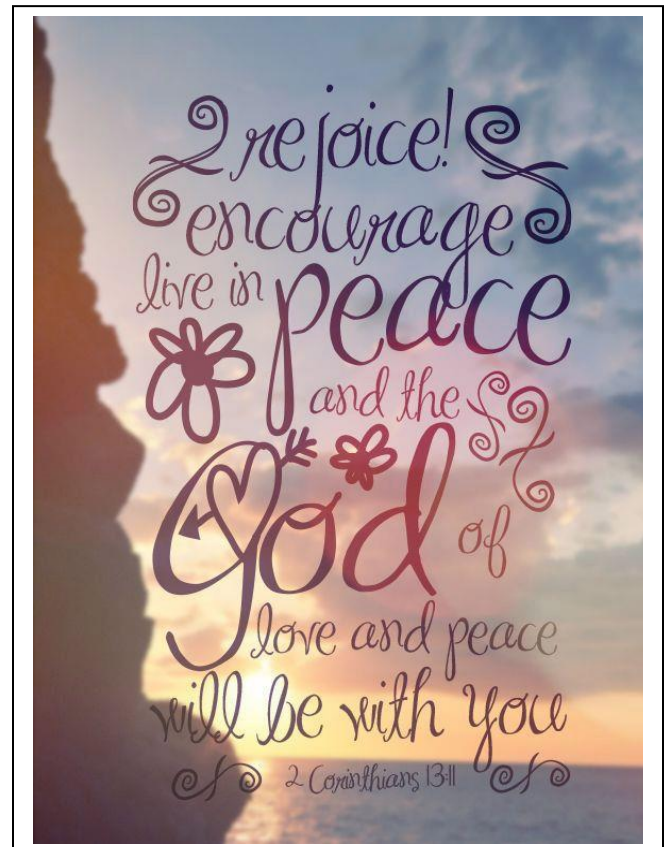
I love how the new year brings with it a clean slate and a fresh opportunity to start over, do better, reach our goals and be the best versions of ourselves! I do love the calm, peacefulness of winter in January, and although I equally love the festive nature of the holiday season, by the new year I am ready to be still, quiet, reflective. I'm ready to focus on cultivating nourishing, nurturing habits that will help me be a better version of myself with each passing year.

I am setting my intention to cultivate peace and calm in all that I do, because just like cultivating a garden, the seeds of peace must also be sewn and nurtured until they grow big and strong. And I'm starting now in this new year, because while there is always a busy season in life, winter is the perfect time to slow down. My new year's goal is to cultivate peace in all that I do!

**2 Thessalonians 3:16** *"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."* A very happy new year to all. I wish you peace, love and joy in all that you do in 2025 and beyond.

Blessings,

*Pastor Deb*



# **First Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights**

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

First Lutheran Council met on December 11, 2024, before joint council. Present were Pastor Deb Hammer, Lyle Carlson, Gloria Dowling, Denise Hingst, Katie Olesen, and Vickie Sands.

\*Opening prayer by all during joint council.

\*Pastor's report was read and discussed during joint council.

\*Secretary's report for November was read and approved.

\*Treasurer's reports for October and November were read, discussed and approved.

## **Property Items:**

- Air conditioner – new air conditioner will be installed by Spring.
- Roof repair - waiting on a written bid from Matt Hingst.
- Parking lot – Lyle filled cracks once. Some of the tar sank, so he will try get to it again when the weather warms back up

## **Old Business:**

- First Lutheran was the winner of the food drive challenge this year.
- Pastor Deb will deliver the Haven House gifts on December 13.
- Christmas Eve service at First will be held at 7:00 PM with Janis Olson playing the piano.
- If anyone has updates for the church directory, they should get that information to Bridget by Dec. 31. We also discussed some additional people that may need to be added to the book.

## **New Business:**

- We started preliminary work on the church budget for next year, both at our own meeting and at the joint meeting. This will be finalized at our January meeting and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.
- Both Richie and Gloria will be going off council this year so we are looking for two new people to fill their spots.

## **Other Business:**

- We set a couple of dates for next year's calendar. The annual picnic will be held on July 27 and Turkey Bingo will be held on November 16.

Closing prayer by all following the joint meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Sands, Secretary

**Next meeting will be Monday, January 6 at 7:00 PM**

# Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

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

The monthly meeting of the Concordia Council was held December 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the church basement. Present: Pastor Deb, Peg Lutt, Mandy Bruning, Dustin Thompson, Dan Nolte, Zach Harder and Pam Anderson.

Judy Martindale, Financial Secretary and Trisha Reifenrath, Treasurer were both present to answer questions on their reports and the budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November reports for Pastor, the Financials, Minutes, and the Treasurer's December payments. A motion by Mandy and a second by Dustin, to include reimbursement to Dan for concrete, rock and labor of \$2,842.47 was passed.

Update: Peg shared that ALL the Council's goals were completed, except the siding repair on the church, which will transfer to the 2025 Goals.

## **Old Business:**

Dan fixed the family bathroom sink at the church.

Dustin and Dan are still gathering information on AED's and prices.

New bulbs were experimented with in the sanctuary lights with negative results. They are still searching for other options for better lighting which still enhances the aesthetics of the sanctuary. They will work on a proposal for our annual meeting.

Pastor will deliver a Christmas box, along with our special offering, to the Olsons.

The Budget numbers for 2025 were discussed. A final draft will be presented at the January meeting before the Annual meeting.

## **New Business:**

A motion was made by Dustin and seconded by Mandy to approve the Post Office insurance deductible be raised to \$2,500 to keep the premiums affordable.

A North Star Insurance representative will be doing a walk-through of the church in the next week or two.

Propane for the church is on a "Keep Filled" program. We did not contract for propane this year and still have some credit.

Installation date for new and current Council members will be January 12.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 26, 2025 after worship. The auditors call for books is January 15.

Concordia Council's next meeting will be held January 8, 2025 at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned followed with the Litany Prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Anderson

# Joint Council Meeting Highlights

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First Lutheran Council and Concordia Lutheran Council met for a joint council meeting on December 11, 2024. Present were: Vickie Sands, Gloria Dowling, Katie Olesen, Lyle Carlson, Denise Hingst, Pastor Deb Hammer, Peg Lutt, Dan Nolte, Zach Harder, Dustin Thompson, Mandy Bruning and Pam Anderson.

Opening prayer led by Pastor Deb.

Introductions and job descriptions were given for Concordia's two incoming Council members (invited as visitors to get a feel for how our two congregations work together).

Pastor's report was discussed. There will be three Sundays to cover while Pastor is in Tanzania in February.

Secretary's minutes from September 9, 2024 were read. Vickie made a motion to approve, seconded by Lyle.

## **Old Business:**

Discussion was held on 2025 staff salaries and benefits split between our congregations for our upcoming budgets. A motion by Dan and seconded by Zach for Pastor's housing allowance to be changed to \$1,500 per church, and continuing education allowance be raised to \$1,000.

The Food Challenge was a great success for the Food Pantry. Concordia raised \$1,259.80 and almost 60 pounds of food. First raised \$1,613.00 and 63 pounds of food. The coveted trophy goes to First. Congratulations, until next year!

## **New Business:**

We discussed who we could get for our 2025 Shared Ministry Mission speaker(s). One idea was the Norfolk Rescue Mission. We would welcome more ideas. It will again be held the end of August at Concordia's outdoor service.

We had an overage of copies per our copier contract, which amounted to \$70.

**The next Joint Council meeting will be held at First Lutheran on Monday, March 3, 2025 – CLC at 5:30 p.m., Joint at 6:30 p.m., and FLC at 7:30 p.m.**

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Closing prayer led by Pastor Deb.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Anderson, Secretary