



# Parish Partyline

## Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

**April 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  
Rod Ketelsen  
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.

**College Boxes** will be set out at both churches during April. Please watch bulletins for more information.

**HOPE Circle** will meet on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Kinship Pointe.

Bible Study: Pastor Deb & Hostess: Peg L.

**You are invited to attend a Presentation on the 2025 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip to Tanzania by Pastor Deb on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at FLC. See flyer for more details.**

**FLC WELCA** will meet on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Lesson (Isaiah 40:25-31) by Jean Carlson

**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**  
4754 English Ave. Apt 301-B  
Fort Meade, MD 20755

**Taylor Johnson**  
7541 Murray Hill, Apt 838  
Columbia, MD 21046

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

### Lent 2025

April 2 - Lent 4 @ CLC\*

April 9 - Lent 5 @ FLC\*

April 17 - Maundy Thursday @ CLC\*

April 18 - Good Friday @ FLC\*

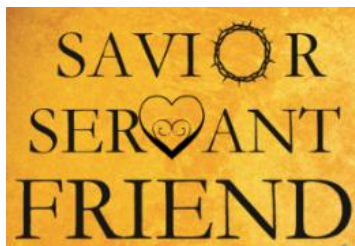
April 20 - Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. @ FLC

10:15 a.m. @ CLC

*\*Lenten Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.*

*Offerings will go to Lutheran Family Services.*





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

Peg Lutt  
Jerry Smith  
Barb Lund  
Duane Lund

*We remember those in care  
facilities or homebound.*

Loren & Betty Carr (Homebound)  
Bonnie Kellogg  
(Wakefield Care Center)  
Frieda Bowman (Kinship Pointe)  
Lyla Swanson (Kinship Pointe)  
Marilyn Wallin (CountryView)  
Fern Erickson (Kinship Pointe)  
Shirley Lanser (Homebound)  
Elaine Lubberstedt  
(Kinship Pointe)

*We remember those serving  
in the armed forces.*

Chris Wordekemper  
Taylor Johnson  
Jenna & Dylan Scholl

#### *Concordia Members*

Georgia Addison  
Jade Addison  
Dawn Addison-Corbit;  
Addison, Audra  
Dwight & Pam Anderson  
Shirley Andersen

#### *First Lutheran Members*

Brian & Katie Sullivan;  
Cheyenne, Jolene  
Rex Wheeler  
Paul & Tina Boyle  
Lyle & Jean Carlson  
Diane Carr

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>	Gerald & Barb Sands	Jason Fischer & Kolton Fischer
<b>Acolytes</b>		3/2 Jayson Wayman 3/9 Taelynn Settje 3/16 Turner Thompson 3/23 Presten Wayman 3/30 Easton Nolte
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Gloria Dowling	Sheri Christiansen
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Shelly Jones	Jeremy Christiansen
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Shelly Jones	Lynette Krie
<b>Altar Flowers</b>		Lynette Krie
<b>Power Point</b>	Vickie Sands	
<b>Coffee after Service</b>	4/6 Tom & Bea Osbahr 4/13 Jerry & Donna Schroeder 4/20 Council 4/27 Paul & Tina Boyle	

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

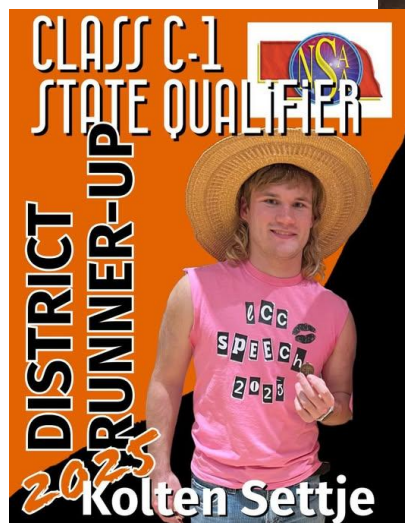
4/3 Nancy Ellis  
4/3 Dale & Barb Strivens  
4/3 Duane & Barb Lund  
4/7 Loren & Betty Carr  
4/7 Barb Ketelsen  
4/15 Mackenzey Connell  
4/15 Karlie Sands  
4/17 Lyle & Jean Carlson  
4/19 Jerry & Donna Schroeder  
4/24 Richard Olesen  
4/25 Dwight & Ronnie Gotch  
4/26 Heidi Keil



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

4/6 Dustin Thompson  
4/18 Peg Anderson  
4/24 Steve & Peg Anderson  
4/25 Elaine Lubberstedt  
4/30 Mitchell Fischer  
4/30 Dan Nolte

Senior Gabe Olesen presents his Humorous Speech at the Speech Showcase at Allen High School.



Congratulations Kolten for being the District Runner Up in Humorous and punching your ticket to state!

## **Bible Readings**

### **April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

### **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

### **April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

The Women's Spring Gathering will be in Atkinson on April 26<sup>th</sup>. A tangible Offering will be taken for Bright Horizons. Bright Horizons is dedicated to the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault through empowerment, education, social action, and support services. They provide Individual Advocacy, Shelter Support, Support Groups, Community Education, Criminal Justice and Legal Advocacy to help women, men, and children escape violence and abuse. Please pick up a list of tangible offering items from the information table.

#### Items Needed:

- ☐ Dryer sheets
- ☐ Toilet tissue
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Shampoo
- ☐ Kleenex
- ☐ Garbage bags
- ☐ Cleaning supplies
- ☐ Size 6-7 Diapers
- ☐ Laundry soap with HE
- ☐ Gift Cards to fast food restaurants
- ☐ Gift Cards for gas like Casey's







You are invited  
to attend a Presentation  
on the  
2025 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip  
to Tanzania

Presented by Pr. Deb Hammer



The Nebraska Synod has been partners with the Northern Diocese for 25 years and will be celebrated at the Synod Assembly this year. The partnership began back in 1999 with a pastor exchange between Pastor Martin Russell from Our Savior in Wayne, Nebraska, and Pastor Kiwelu at Kotela Parish in Marangu, Tanzania.

Please join Pr. Deb Hammer as she shares some history of the partnership with the Northern Diocese and the joys of her journey traveling to visit our companions. Pr. Deb will share updates on what is happening at Kotela Parish today.

**Sunday, April 6, 2025 | 1pm**  
**First Lutheran Church, Allen**

**Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 1pm**  
**Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne**





## **Holy Humor Sunday**

**April 27, 2025**

**Cowboy Theme**

**Please bring your cowboy jokes, songs,  
and we will roundup some fun on Holy Humor Sunday.**

**Concordia Prayer Partner Event will follow worship.**



# Ministry Opportunities

**Lenten Worship** – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at CLC

**HOPE Circle** – April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Kinship Pointe

**Tanzania Trip Presentation** – April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at FLC

**CLC Council Meeting** – April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Worship Planning Meeting** – April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at CLC

**FLC WELCA** – April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**Lenten Worship** – April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at FLC

**Middle School Gathering** – April 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday Worship** – April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at CLC

**Good Friday Worship** – April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at FLC

**Easter Worship** – April 20<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship at FLC. Breakfast to Follow

10:15 a.m. Easter Celebration at CLC

**Newsletter Deadline** – April 21<sup>st</sup>

**Confirmation & CLC Children's Ministry** – April 23 & 30 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at CLC

**CLC Prayer Partner Event** - April 27<sup>th</sup> following Worship



Dear Concordia Lutheran,  
Thank you for all that you do as God's people in Concord! Thank you also 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 deep love made real through you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
I hope to see you and thank you in person as part of the synod on the road again experience coming up on March 29 in Wausau. And 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 and Christ's light with the world!  
God's blessings and peace,  
Timothy Sibura

Dear church family,

With sincere gratitude and warmest thanks, I thank you for the time that was gifted to me as I was away with my travels to Tanzania and healing from my surgery. I appreciate everyone covering worship for me while I was away and appreciate all everyone does for the life of our church to glorify God.

I thank you for the assistance with funds from continuing education as well as gifts to help with my trip. I appreciated all the cards, visits and meals while I was healing from surgery. I thank you for all your prayers and appreciate all of you!

Blessings, Pastor Deb

Thank You





# Cultivating Love Through Creation



*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." **Genesis 2:15***

Cultivating love through creation can involve expressing love through acts of creation, appreciating the beauty and wonder of the world, and fostering a sense of interconnectedness with all things. The story of creation begins with God planting a garden, a sacred space filled with vibrant life, peace, and purpose. In Genesis 2:15, we see the first commission given to humankind: to cultivate and steward this beautiful gift. This calling is as relevant today as it was in the Garden of Eden.

As we navigate the complexities of our modern world, it becomes increasingly crucial to reflect on our relationship with creation and our role as stewards. Cultivating creation speaks to a profound responsibility to cherish, nurture, and protect the intricate web of life that God designed. Cultivating love through creation encompasses all aspects of life. It invites us to look closely at how we interact with nature, our communities, and our resources.

By caring for creation, we not only honor God's handiwork but also ensure a healthier, more vibrant world for future generations. Our actions today can lead to restorative outcomes, fostering resilience in both nature and community. Jesus teaches us that faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20). Our faith prompts us to act on our convictions regarding creation care. We are entrusted with resources — time, skills, and knowledge — and we are called to invest them wisely. I pray God will open our eyes to the wonders of His creation and guide us in our efforts to protect it.



As we enter into the season of spring, we have hope for new life, warmer weather, and reminders of God's promises of new life. This month, we move through the final days of Lent and to the events of Holy Week- from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then the new life of Easter. These Holy days of our faith remind us of God's story of bringing new life and new creation. This month also means the start of planting season, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. May we remember the goodness of all of God's creation which God entrusts into our care. God is doing something new, cultivating new creation and new life which brings us hope in the Resurrection of Jesus and new life.

*Blessings, Pastor Deb*

# **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 March 3, 2025. Present were Lyle Carlson, Gloria Dowling, Pastor Deb Hammer, Denise Hingst, Rod Ketelsen, Katie Olesen, and Vickie Sands.

\*Opening prayer by all during joint meeting.

\*Pastor's report was read and discussed.

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

\*Treasurer's reports for January and February were read, discussed, and approved.

## **Property Items: (all on hold until Spring)**

- Air conditioner
- Roof repair
- Parking lot

## **Old Business:**

- Soup Supper made \$2,439.00. We will try to come up with a better system for phone orders and other take-out orders.

## **New Business:**

- Lenten offerings will go to Dana Village.

Closing prayer by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

**Next meeting will be on Monday, April 7 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 Concordia Lutheran Church Council was held March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at approximately 6:00 pm in the basement of First Lutheran Church of Allen. Present members were Peg Lutt, Grant Anderson, Kenny Steinle, Dustin Thompson, Zach Harder, and Pastor Deb Hammer.

We started the meeting with an Opening Prayer led by Pastor Deb Hammer.

Pastors Report was not shared as she just arrived back from her mission trip in Tanzania.

February 2025 Council Meeting Minutes presented by Secretary Grant Anderson were approved.

Judy Martindale, Financial Secretary, presented Concordia's monthly income for the month of February. After review, the financial reports were approved.

President, Peg Lutt presented a brief informational update of Concordia's Goals Plan/Progress.

## **Old Business:**

Dustin purchased an AED kit for approximately \$1448.98. This purchase was made possible through funds from the Memorial Fund. Dustin recommended we purchase a LifeVac to go with the AED.

Brad and Zach Harder were able to locate and install LED sanctuary lights that are compatible with the current fixtures.

The tenants at the Church Parsonage officially moved in March 1, 2025. Kenny Steinle updated the council that everything went smooth. He presented the rent payments to Judy Martindale. Judy and Grant mentioned it may be easier to set up direct deposits for the tenants monthly rent payments as it would be easier to track down rent this way. Grant Anderson confirmed that the limits of liability were acceptable on their required insurance policies. Kenny presented the signed lease agreements of each tenant as well. The tenants did ask if we would allow cats. After discussion and concern for property damage, the council agreed to revisit their pet request six months down the road.

Concordia's Lutheran Church's 140-year anniversary is approaching in May. Peg encouraged the council to start brainstorming ideas for the celebration. Due to scheduling we would most likely celebrate that on May 18<sup>th</sup> or June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Church Council will serve Lenten Lunch on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business:**

Peg read a 'Thank You' letter from the Synod Representative for Mission and Stewardship, Timothy Siburg, thanking Concordia for our continued contribution to Mission Share.

A donation to LCC Band was approved for \$200 for their upcoming trip to march in Chicago's Memorial Day Parade in May.

Peg updated the Council on upcoming Baptisms. The Krusemark Family will be having a baptism March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Stewart Family will be having a baptism March 30<sup>th</sup>.

We will need to order Palms for Palm Sunday on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a Middle School gathering April 12 @ OSLC Wayne.

Organizing College Boxes will begin April 1 and they will be delivered in May.

This year marks 80 years of Mission work through Lutheran World Relief.

Next meeting will be April 7 @5:30

Meeting is adjourned followed by a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Grant Anderson, Secretary

# **Joint Council Meeting Minutes**

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First Lutheran Council and Concordia Lutheran Council met for a joint council meeting on March 3, 2025. Present were Vickie Sands, Pastor Deb Hammer, Gloria Dowling, Katie Olesen, Lyle Carlson, Denise Hingst, Rod Ketelsen, Peg Lutt, Dustin Thompson, Grant Anderson, Kenny Steinle, and Zach Harder.

Opening prayer by all.

Council members introduced.

Pastor's report was discussed.

Secretary's report for the joint meeting on December 11, 2024 was read and approved.

Election of officers was held. Officers for 2025 are President-Dustin Thompson, Vice President-Lyle Carlson, and Secretary-Vickie Sands.

## **Old Business:**

A discussion was held on possibilities for our shared ministry mission. A motion was passed to proceed with the Norfolk Rescue Mission. Pastor Deb will contact them.

## **New Business:**

No new business to discuss.

Motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

**Next joint meeting will be June 2, 2025 at Concordia. FLC council will meet at 5:30 PM, joint at 6:30 PM, and CLC council at 7:30 PM.**