

# CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



## THE FEBRUARY CHRONICLE 2020

Empowered by Christ's forgiveness,  
We worship Him, praise Him, and study His Word.  
We nurture community members, and serve mission fields.

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# PASTOR'S CORNER



***“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”***

***Job 10:9***

As I walked into the church this morning I was both shocked and amazed at how well the pots of poinsettias that decorated the church at Christmas are surviving. What is even more shocking is that I came into my office and am writing about the upcoming season of Lent. Yes it is absolutely true! Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26, 2020.

Each year on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the liturgy of the Church calls us to begin “a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection,” when “our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The words used in the Ash Wednesday rite of the *Lutheran Service Book Agenda* also remind us that “from ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.”

Each of the seasons of the church year is observed and celebrated, but Lent, and only Lent, is “kept.” The holy season of Lent invites us to be “keepers”—the people of God who keep the fast, keep the silence, and keep the focus throughout this singular season.

This season we will make our way through a series that will take us through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. It will help us relate to the events surrounding Christ’s life, death and resurrection. In the process God’s Word will reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith in this sacred season. We look forward to you joining us for services each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

February 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday - “Blessed Are You”

March 4, 2020 - “Salt and Light”

March 11, 2020 - “Prayer and Fasting”

March 18, 2020 - “Do Not Worry”

March 25, 2020 - “Judge Not”

April 1, 2020 - “Build on Rock”



With Great Joy In Christ Jesus,

*Pastor Brad A. Brown*



The February Sunday School lessons have us continuing to learn about God's people and their journey through sin, disobedience, and His promise to love them anyway. Always remember His promise; He will never leave or forsake you. He is always right there waiting for you to turn back to Him. God's love is eternal.

**February 2nd** – Unit 17– *Zechariah the Prophet*

**February 9th** – Unit 18– *Esther Saved Her People*

**February 16th** - Unit 18 – *The Walls Rebuilt*

**February 23rd** – Unit 18- *God's People Repented*

Ask your children to share with you each week what they have learned so you can grow together in Christ. Family is where learning begins and are one of the most influential parts of a child's thought process. God will work through you every chance you give Him.

**SNACKS** – reminder, if your student would like to bring a snack to share with their class during the Sunday School hour they can do that. Please touch base with your child's teacher to get the classroom size and/or coordinate.

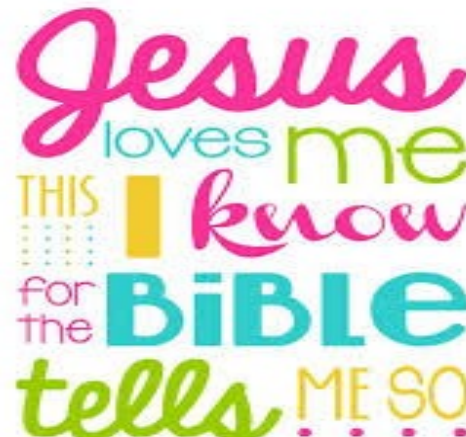
**OFFERING** – is collected each week at Sunday School from both the children and the adults. This is an opportunity to give an offering back, from what the Lord has provided us with, so his Word and Love can be spread to others throughout the world.

Our Sunday School offering will be going to purchase Bible Sticks for the military to help uplift them through the word of our Savior.

Gods Blessings,

Angie Cooling

Sunday School Superintendent



# STEPP Up

STEPP UP times 4:45 pm to **7:00 pm.**

**February 5th** –Eighth Commandment – You Shall Not Lie



Theme – Chocolate Fondue Day

Younger kids activities will be Craft and Science

**February 12th** – Ninth Commandment – You Shall Not want your neighbor's house



Theme – Darwin Day

Younger kids activities will be a Game and Storytelling

**February 19th** – Ninth Commandment – You Shall Not want your neighbor's house



Theme – Chocolate Mint Day

Younger kids will be having Storytelling and an Activity

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** – NO STEPP UP – ASH WEDNESDAY



Families are welcome to come to the soup supper and church service.

## Youth News and Upcoming Events

### **YOUTH GROUP BOWLING**

**February 16, 2020 - 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Youth should meet at Cedar Rapids Bowling Center at 1:30p.m.

(265 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE)

Permission slips are required for everyone in attendance.

You can pick them up at church and at Youth Group.

The cost for each person is \$9.00 which includes two games of bowling and shoe rental.

Permission slips are located on the Youth Bulletin Board.

If you have questions see Pastor Brown.

### **IT'S A SUPER PARTY**



Youth and their families are invited to a **SUPER PARTY** on February 2, 2020.

**Wear your favorite team colors - Bring a family friendly snack to share**

**We'll kick the whole thing off at Concordia at 5:00 p.m.**

**Stay for a quarter. Stay until half time.  
Stay for the whole game if you want.**

**We'll have board games, snoods, and the Wii connected just in case your team falls behind and you just can't watch anymore.**

### **February 2020 Calendar**

**February 2 - Youth and Families  
Football Party 5:00 p.m.—????**

**February 9 - Youth Group at Concordia  
6:30 - 8:45 p.m.**

**February 16th - BOWLING @ Cedar Rapids  
Bowling 1:30—4:00p.m.**

**February 23rd - Youth Group at Concordia  
6:30 - 8:45 p.m.**

# CHURCH NEWS



## Concordia is in need of Money Counters!

*It takes about an hour. It is not a difficult task.*

*No experience is necessary. We will train you!*

Our insurance requires us to have two unrelated people to count after late service each Sunday. You can choose the dates you would like to count. **Please contact Judy Oehlerich, by text 319-389-6924 or email me at jeoeherich@gmail.com.**



## Charity of the Month:

**Central Furniture Rescue**



Located at 943 33rd Ave SW in Cedar Rapids, they are 100% volunteer run, and all of their expenses are to help provide the most basic needs for individuals & families transitioning out of homelessness into a new place to live. In 2019 Central Furniture Rescue served 228 households. How can you help? 1. Volunteer for deliveries, warehouse, administration, fundraising, etc. 2. **DONATE GENTLY USED FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.** 3. Make a financial donation. For more information, please go to

<https://www.facebook.com/centralfurniturerescue/>



## Save the Date!

Wednesday  
February 26th

**Ash Wednesday  
Soup Supper**

The Stewardship Committee will be hosting Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 26. Beef Chili, Venison Chili, and Chicken Noodle Soup will be served 5:30 – 6:30pm. Texas Roadhouse rolls and butter, celery & carrots sticks, bars and beverages will be available. Free will Donations will go toward the Lenten Charities. Volunteers are needed to make bars for dessert. Please bring bars to the kitchen by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 26th.



## 2020 Voters' Meeting Dates

Sunday, April 19 @ 9:15 am  
Sunday, September 20 @ 9:15 am  
Sunday, December 13 @ 1:30 pm

## LUTHERAN HOUR SUNDAY

February 2, 2020

Please prayerfully consider a donation to the Lutheran Hour Ministries and help share the Gospel around the world. A LHM flyer and envelope for donations will be included in your church bulletin.



**March**

**-Mid Week Lenten Services  
Wednesdays @  
11:00 am & 7:15 pm**

**-March 29—Friendship Sunday  
Guest Pastor—Food for the Poor**





The things that have changed in my years of teaching always boggles my mind when I start to think of my first years as an early childhood educator. It isn't only what we taught, but also how we taught it. We used to hope that our kiddos would leave preschool knowing the letters in their name which was awesome for the "Ben"s in the group and fairly challenging for the "Christopher"s. Now we not only work on teaching them to remember all uppercase and lowercase letters, but we also work on what sound each letter makes.

We work on recognizing small quantities without counting and ask our kiddos to recall 2-D and 3-D shapes. This is all while learning to work with a group of same-aged peers and glean from adults that aren't our parents. Preschool is hard work.

BUT...preschool is also the best work. My biggest goal as an educator is not necessarily an academic one. My goal is that each of our preschoolers and our families learn to love the school setting. I hope that our preschoolers grow a desire to try new things and think in new ways. I hope that our families discover the beautiful partnership education can be and use our staff as resources for helping their child develop into the best learner that he or she can be. In this past month, I have had the privilege of partnering with two different early childhood specialists on various tasks related to our work at Share and Care. While sitting and chatting, I have found out that they BOTH attended Share and Care as preschoolers. They now pour THEIR lives' work into early childhood education and I have to imagine the roots of their work find their way back to Share and Care Preschool and the experiences they had while attending here.

Our registration for the 2020-2021 school year has begun for our current families and will be opened to new families on February 3. Our doors will open at 8:55 and spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. We have offerings in our 2 Day, 3 Day and 5 Day programs for preschoolers who are at least 3 on or before September 15, 2020. Our 5 Day program requires that those preschoolers be 4 on or before September 15, 2020. If you, or anyone you know, is looking for a loving, preschool program that has been part of the community for nearly four decades AND continues to adapt to the most current educational trends, please contact me at [shareandcarepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:shareandcarepreschool@gmail.com). Our enrollment application can be found on our website ([www.shareandcarepreschool.com](http://www.shareandcarepreschool.com)) or picked up at the church or preschool office. A \$50 book fee is required at the time of registration to secure your child's spot.

Blessed,  
Sarah Hoffman





## **THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (February 2, 2020)**

1 Samuel 1:21–28    Hebrews 2:14–18    Luke 2:22–32 (33–40)

### ***God Gives the Gift of a Child to Destroy Death***

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. *"As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD"* (1 Sam. 2:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to *"destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery"* (Heb. 2:14b–15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do *"in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people"* (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced, and we with them, for we know that we, too, can face death unafraid and *"depart in peace"* (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.

## **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY    (February 9, 2020)**

Isaiah 58:3–9a    1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16)    Matthew 5:13–20

### ***The Righteousness of Christ***

Jesus warns that *"unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people *"the salt of the earth"* and *"the light of the world"* (Matt. 5:13, 14). That's because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, *"but to fulfill them"* (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God's commandments, He is *"called great in the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His *"demonstration of the Spirit and of power"* in *"Jesus Christ and him crucified"* (1 Cor. 2:2–4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His *"secret and hidden wisdom"* (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is *"to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free"* (Is. 58:6) and *"to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house"* (Is. 58:7).

## **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY    (February 16, 2020)**

Deuteronomy 30:15–20    1 Corinthians 3:1–9    Matthew 5:21–37

### ***Christ Sets Life Before Us so that We Can Walk in His Ways***

The God who reveals Himself in His incarnate Son promises life and blessing to all who obey His commandments *"by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by*

*keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules” (Deut. 30:16). However, we are “people of the flesh” and “infants in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1), among whom “there is jealousy and strife” (1 Cor. 3:3). Jesus must instruct us against the human ways of anger, adultery, divorce and false witness (Matt. 5:21–37), because all who live in these ways “shall surely perish” (Deut. 30:18). On the cross, He died to forgive our sins and free us from the ways of curse and death. Since Jesus Christ is our “life and length of days” (Deut. 30:20), we can be reconciled to our brother, live in chastity and marital faithfulness, and speak with honesty. He who serves from His cross also offers His gift of reconciliation at His altar, and we can be at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are “God’s field, God’s building” (1 Cor. 3:9).*

## **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (February 23, 2020)**

Exodus 24:8–18    2 Peter 1:16–21    Matthew 17:1–9

### ***God Manifests His Glory in the Body of Christ Jesus, Transfigured for Us by His Cross***

The Transfiguration confirms *“the prophetic word ... to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place”* (2 Peter 1:19). The divine glory of Jesus is manifested in the word of His apostles, who were *“eyewitnesses of his majesty”* (2 Peter 1:16). *“He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun”* (Matt. 17:2). Moses and Elijah witnessed the fulfillment of the Old Testament in this Lord Jesus, and the Father testified concerning Him: *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”* (Matt. 17:5). By His own blood, shed on the cross, Jesus makes and seals the new covenant with us. Hence, *“the appearance of the glory of the LORD”* is no longer *“like a devouring fire”* (Ex. 24:17), but it is graciously revealed in His own body. As *“Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel”* went up the mountain with Moses and *“beheld God, and ate and drank”* (Ex. 24:9, 11), we also behold the Lord our God in Christ Jesus, and we abide with Him as we eat and drink His body and blood at the altar.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY (February 26, 2020)**

Joel 2:12–19    2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10    Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

### ***Return to the Lord Your God with All Your Heart, for He Has Reconciled You to Himself***

On Ash Wednesday, we come down from the mountain with Jesus and set our face toward His cross and Passion in Jerusalem. We make our pilgrimage with Him by way of repentance, and thus we return to our dying and rising in Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus, *“who knew no sin,”* became our sin, so that by His death we are released from sin and in His resurrection we *“become the righteousness of God”* (2 Cor. 5:21). As God has thereby reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, *“now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Cor. 6:2). He has provided the sacrificial Lamb, and He has left *“a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering”* (Joel 2:14) in the Eucharist. He summons us to return to Him with all our heart because He is *“gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love”* (Joel 2:13). We do so with faith and confidence in Him, and so we pray to Him as our Father, give to the needy from a heart of love, and fast for the sake of repentance (Matt. 6:3–4, 6, 17–18).



## Celebrating Birthdays this month...

- 2. Carol Hansohn, Dr. James Justice*
- 5. Nicole Schultz, David Timmerman*
- 7. Maddison Brown, Debbie Domke*
- 8. Morgan Meister*
- 9. Shirley Aschbrenner*
- 10. Alex Hanson, JoAnn Kramer*
- 11. Marcia Crapo, Shelley Gott, Derik Wendel*
- 14. John Bush*
- 15. Ed Poock, Reese Thompson*
- 17. Susan Spellerberg*
- 18. Judy Mittan*
- 21. John Hohnstein*
- 23. Diane Schmelz*
- 25. Sue Humphrey, Garrit Wendel*
- 28. Judy Trimpe*

