



We at Concordia are called to be a family of forgiven and forgiving people, instruments of God's love.

Our purpose is to proclaim the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and to reach and teach those without and within the congregation, challenging each other to have Christ in our DAILY lives, to give more freely in response to His incredible love.

We will do all in the Lord's name, with prayer, praise and thanksgiving, involving as many people as possible - taking care to motivate and to try new ideas.

Our mission is to love as Christ loves.

## A Christmas To Remember

The true meaning of Christmas was revealed to me years ago. That Christmas found me as a newly single mother of a beautiful blonde-haired, blue-eyed daughter of three. Trying to juggle rent, utilities, groceries, bills, and a child was putting a serious strain on finances. Many times I would skip meals so my child would have a full meal to eat.

Every parent wishes to give their child the best that they can. So it is no wonder that my heart was breaking when I had no choice but to pull her onto my lap and tell my little girl that there was no Santa. I explain to her while holding back my tears that I was Santa and I could not afford to put any presents under the tree for her or feed her a real Christmas dinner.

God truly blessed me with a daughter that is my earth-bound angel. In the beautiful innocence of a child, she told me, "It's ok Mom. You can just wrap up some of my stuffed animals from my room and put them under the tree. I'll forget what is under there by Christmas." I was amazed and humbled by her response to our situation. So I told her to get into my jewelry box and cosmetics and wrap up some of my things for a present for me.

Christmas day came. I managed to purchase cornbread mix and macaroni and cheese in a box for \$.25 per box each. After we ate our dinner of macaroni and cheese, and cornbread, we sang "Happy Birthday Jesus".

We spent the evening trying to outdo each other with every present we opened with "It is just what I wanted!" and expressions of surprise. The laughter grew throughout the processes until our sides hurt.

Later that night after she had gone to sleep and I could reflect on the Christmas we shared, I cried for not being able to give her what I thought she deserved and spoiling the "Santa" fairy tale, but then it dawned on me what a great present God had given me and I cried for joy.

How often do you find the true meaning of Christmas? The pure and innocent spirit of a child reminded me that it isn't about the presents, but the sharing the love that Christ has for us that is Christmas.

The following year was not much better financially. Preparing for another barren Christmas, my daughter and I went to the Christmas service at church to worship the one who's birthday we celebrate.

When we arrived home from church and walked to the front door of our mobile home, I noticed a bag of trash on our front doorstep. Irritated that someone could be cruel on the holidays, I went to throw the bag to the side.

But as I reached for the bag, a label caught my eye. The label read my daughter's name. We looked at each other curious.

I helped her open the bag. Inside was a new dress, an easy bake oven, and several color books and games.

If you have ever wondered if the donations you give make a difference, let me assure you they do. Although I know Jesus is the reason for the season, those toys and clothes relieve the stress of a mother that cannot provide and joy to a child that had come to expect nothing.

You were Jesus to someone in need.

Fifteen years passed since that time. We have been blessed and have much more than we could ever have expected. We both remember it as one of the best Christmas' we ever had.

I pray you have Christmas to remember.

# *A Letter From The Pastor*

What's your favorite part of Advent and Christmas?

Is it the countdown to Christmas? Hot chocolate and a fire? Carols on the radio?

Searching for gifts for loved ones? Opening presents?

Is it the promise of time away from school or work?

Knowing that family will be coming soon?

Peppermint? Snow? Games and laughs with a certain someone?

A favorite Advent Calendar (you can keep the chocolate one, mine has Legos for every day!)

The hymns that remind us that God is up to something spectacular?

One of my favorite parts of Advent is all the extra time spent getting ready. It's exhausting and overwhelming; it is a gift and a joy. It is a month when people spend more energy and time on family and church - and for that I give thanks to God.

Sometimes people can get cynical or bitter about the Christmas and Easter crowd at church. But Advent is a time when we can look forward to seeing people at church that maybe we haven't seen in a while, and that's a good thing. Advent is a time when there's more activity at Concordia than any other time, and that's a good thing. During December you can bet that there will be the familiar faces and the die-hard worker-bees of the congregation, and that's a good thing. We will also see the not-so familiar faces, the people we see but for special occasions, and we might also be reminded of the faces we don't see anymore - friends that have moved away, or taken ill, and loved ones who have died.

This challenge was posed to me this year and I forward it to you:

In each person you see this Advent, in the scurrying, the meddling, the cheery holiday well-wishers and the exhausted, stressed-out furrowed brows, people weary with illness - in every face you see, know that you look upon a Child of God.

Advent is a time to prepare and wait for what God is about to do and I challenge you to also see what God is already doing by placing people in your life, in your home, on your walk through the parking lot, on the sidewalk, on the other end of the phone, and everywhere.

As we wait for the Christmas miracle let us not overlook the gifts and people that God gives us already, all the time, right now.



**SIX WEEKS OF GIVING**  
**Countdown to Christmas Boxes**  
**for**

**Kendall Food Cupboard**  
**(please bring food to the shelves in**  
**the fellowship hall)**

November 5 - December 16

Week 1	Nov 5-11	Jars of Spaghetti Sauce
Week 2	Nov 12-18	Cereal
Week 3	Nov 19-25	Jelly
Week 4	Nov 26-Dec 2	Cans of Chef Boyardee
Week 5	Dec 3-9	Cans of Tuna Fish
Week 6	Dec 10-16	Boxed Mashed Potatoes

**POINSETTIAS**

Help decorate the sanctuary this Christmas with Poinsettias. You may purchase your own or get a special rate by ordering from the chart on the bulletin board.

**Stay tuned to the bulleting for sizes and pricing.**

Color choices: red, white, marble, jingle bells

Please note on the chart who they will be in honor/memory of, so it may be printed in the bulletin, even if you decide to purchase your own. Any questions contact Elaine Questenbach 964-2844



**The season of giving** This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Concordia this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Contact our Treasurer, Mary Lou Lockhart for more information.

**DECK THE HALLS**  
**before church December 3rd at 9 a.m.**

**TREE OF LIGHTS**  
**At the end of Worship on**  
**December 3rd**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**December 10th after worship to vote**  
**on 2018 budget and council members**

**CHRISTMAS PLAY**  
**December 17th**

**CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING**  
**worship at 10:00 a.m.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**No Christmas Day Worship**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**January 28th 2018**

**It's that time of year again....**

committee and organization reports for the 2017 Annual Report need to be submitted to Beth Schmidt by Sunday, January 14th. They can be put into the Secretary mailbox in the kitchen or emailed to concordia\_kendall@hotmail.com

Thank You,  
 Beth Schmidt, Parish Administrator



- 12/3 9:00- Deck the Halls (with treats!)  
 After Church- Play practice
- 12/10 After Church- Play practice
- 12/17 During Church- Christmas Play!!!

## December Birthdays

12/8 Beth Provost  
 12/10 Katie St. John  
 12/12 Sarah Meyer  
 12/13 Sybil Reisch  
 12/14 Ralph Pugh  
 12/15 Adam Comstock  
 Brigitte Duschen  
 12/28 Sheryl Vick  
 Bob Reisch  
 12/30 Elizabeth Behnke  
 12/31 Jennifer Reisch



## Those Serving In December

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dec. 3 Karen St. John  
 Dec. 10 Sybil Reisch  
 Dec. 17 Jennifer Banker  
 Dec. 24 Karen St. John  
 Dec. 31

### USHERS

Dec. 3 & 10 Phil D'Agostino  
 Dec. 17 Childrens Christmas Play  
 Dec. 24 & 31 Herman & D'Agostino Families

## December Anniversaries

12/11 Matt & Jill Kludt

### The church is in need of the following items:

Stamps for the newsletter  
 Air Fresheners  
 AA Batteries Tissues

### ALTAR CARE

Jill Groves

## Pastor Steve's Office Hours

Pastor Steve will be in his office  
 Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 or by appointment.

### UPCOMING LIONS CLUB EVENTS

#### Kendall Lions Club

*George Herring Memorial*

#### February 2018 Lottery Raffle

*\$25.00 Winner Every Day*

Proceeds to benefit Kendall Lions Club

Emergency Fund

Winners based on NYS Daily Lottery Numbers

Evening Drawing

Winners paid each week by mail.

Donation \$5.00

#### Kendall Lions Club

#### Chicken Bar B Que

**February 3, 2018**

Pick-up from Noon - 2 p.m. at  
 Kendall United Methodist Church

Donation \$9.00 take-outs only

"Proceeds to benefit

children diabetes and cancer"

Get a ticket for either event from  
 any Lion Club Member

(Phil D'Agostino, Craig Herman,  
 Cliff Provost, Gary Kludt, Tony Camarratta)

## CALENDAR

Fri., Dec. 1	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 3	Deck The Halls	9:00 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 3	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 a.m.
	Worship with Tree of Lights	10:00 a.m.
	Sunday School after church	
Wed., Dec. 6	Finance Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 7	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 8	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 10	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Congregational Meeting after worship	
Thurs., Dec. 14	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 17	Worship Christmas Play	10:00 a.m.
Tues., Dec. 19	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21	Alzheimer's Meeting	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 24	Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Choir Rehearsal	6-6:45 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Worship	7:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec 31	Worship	10:00 a.m.

**Concordia Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2017**

Members Present: Nancy Comstock, Beth Schmidt, Cathy Herman, Tibbs Ahlberg, Russ Levett, Pastor Steven Meyer  
Absent: Dorrie Hardenbrook, Robin Schepler

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with special needs and concerns shared.

Tibbs Ahlberg made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Nancy Comstock, carried.

Cathy Herman motioned to accept the October minutes, Russ Levett seconded, carried.

Pastor's Report: Sunday service - 4, Special Events - Bring a Friend to Church, Trunk or Treat, Euchre Tournament, Reformation Cantata at St. Paul Hilton, Visitations - home-5, sick/hospital-3, shut-in-8 total 16 (0 inactive, 2 non-member), Meetings-9, Counselings- 4 - in office and phone calls with family of hospitalized members. Weddings-Tozer/Armden, Guadango/Butterbaugh, Funeral- 0, Baptism - 0, vacation used 1 week in January (5 days including 1 Sunday) Sick Time Feb. 13 1/2 day. Vacation May 19 and 21, 2017, July 26 & 27, August 21 - 23. 3 This Month Nov. 23-26 (15 days including 3 Sundays to date). The Eagle Scout project is complete. The Cub Scouts made ornaments. Tree of lights is Dec. 3 at the end of worship. The Sunday after Thanksgiving there will be no supply pastor, assisting ministers will do the service.

Parish Administrator: Beth was asked why we do not have any acolytes. Pastor Steve said he will ask some of the children to see if any are interested in doing it or learning to do it. The Villages of Orleans is in need of a minister for Sundays now that the lay person has become a full time minister with her own church. They are looking for Concordia to do at least one service in 2018. A pianist is supplied. Pastor Steve said he would contact Marsha Rivers about this commitment.

Finance Committee: The report was given. The proposed budget was given. Russ Levett made a motion to present the proposed 2018 budget to the congregation with the following changes: P6 - church heat decrease by \$500, P9 decrease parsonage heat by \$500, take out line item SM1 prayer chain, SM5 social ministry and SM6 council discretionary fund. Nancy Comstock seconded the motion, carried.

Christian Education: The Christmas play is December 17th.

Mutual Ministry: They have been meeting monthly with Pastor Steve and have another scheduled for after Thanksgiving.

Property Report: Electric has been turned on at the parking lot. There is serious water damage in the basement. The town is going to clean the ditch. Water is not flowing away from the church and coming in the side of the church in the north east corner.

Fellowship & Hospitality: Deck the Halls is December 3 at 9 a.m. with treats and hot chocolate.

Karen Frobel Estate Fund: Craig Herman will have finished 2 terms and will need to be replaced at the January Annual Meeting.

Assisting Ministers: Pastor will be on vacation Thanksgiving weekend and has the assisting ministers covering worship without a supply minister.

Clothes Closet: Is open monthly.

Old Business:

New Business: 2018 Budget was discussed during finance discussion. Council Members for 2018. Russ Levett will have finished 1 term, he may stay on if he chooses to.

Mutual Ministry: Charley Duschen is too ill to fulfill his duties on Mutual Ministry. He will need to be replaced as this is an active committee. Russ Levett is interested in being on the Mutual Ministry Committee but our Constitution states you can not be a council member AND a mutual ministry member.

Congregational Meeting: December 10 is the budget/council member meeting. January 28th will be the Annual Congregational meeting. There will be a December council meeting at this point.

Russ Levett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Cathy Herman seconded the motion, carried. Meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,  
Beth Schmidt  
Parish Administrator

# PRAYER VENTURES

## DECEMBER 2017



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

1 Give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, through the Sierra Pacific Synod and Luther Social Services of Northern California, helping address the needs of those affected by recent widespread wildfires in California. Pray all those suffering loss and distress find hope and support throughout their recovery, rebuilding and healing.

2 We continue to pray for people and communities recovering from the devastation and loss caused by recent hurricanes – especially in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other locations in the Caribbean, and Gulf Coast and Southeastern states – that they not lose hope, will receive ongoing support and assistance, and will be strengthened and encouraged by our caring for one another.

3 First Sunday of Advent Pray to be alert in faith and life in grateful response for the gift of Jesus Christ breaking into the darkness of the world with love and mercy and for the promised return of our Lord.

4 We remember in our prayers the Rev. Kirsten Fryer, Justin Kolb and Dr. Michael Parker, ELCA missionaries serving in Egypt alongside companion churches proclaiming the gospel, developing future leaders and strengthening parish ministry.

5 When we grow weary, discouraged or compelled to give up, we pray as the psalmist prayed, “Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.”

6 For the sake of doing God’s work in the world, pray God will shape our words to inspire, comfort, give hope, hold each other accountable and invite our neighbor to know God’s mercy and love; enlighten our actions through the word of God, conversations, relationships and encounters with people rather than acting on what we believe is best for them.

7 During this season of sharing gifts, pray we are mindful of and generous with our neighbors, especially those who live in poverty and hunger, immigrants and refugees, people who feel isolated and long for relationships and community, and families without homes or safe shelter.

8 Pray daily for God’s mercy and patience, asking forgiveness for our shortcomings and failures, that through God’s renewing love and the cleansing of our baptism we are set back on paths of righteousness and compassion.

9 In the face of heartbreaking, daunting gun violence, we pray God’s Spirit will stir in us a sense of self-sacrifice and humility that we might reconsider how we exercise our freedoms and live together for the well-being and safety of all people and that we will be wise and courageous in conceiving and embracing effective changes in our lives and laws, even when met with uneasiness or resistance.

10 Give thanks daily for our baptism into the body of Christ that prepares, renews and moves us to be faithful, compelling messengers of the good news.

11 Ask God to bless the continuing work and impact of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, and give thanks for the many ways in which the campaign is helping cultivate and strengthen relationships, leaders and ministries locally and globally.

12 Pray for a spirit of peace to fill us and inspire our lives through knowing God is patient and forgiving with us and our salvation is certain through faith in Jesus Christ.

13 The mesmerizing light of Advent candles reminds us of the welcome, unfaltering light God shines into the world and our lives through Jesus Christ. Pray our lives are guided by the gospel and reflect the light of Jesus Christ in all we do and say.

14 Remember in prayer men and women living in prisons, jails and correctional facilities across our country, that the Spirit of God will fill their lives with faith and hope and that we are moved to show them – as Jesus has shown us – sincere mercy, love, respect and support.

15 Praise God for dwelling in our world – in us – and causing peace, mercy, goodness and hope to spring up where we might be inclined to give up in the face of darkness, despair and overwhelming difficulties.

16 God knows the quirks, insecurities and needs of our human nature and being. Lift up prayers of thanks and praise to God for meeting us where we are in the human form of Jesus Christ and for giving us something living, real, tangible and engaging to capture our attention and faith.

17 Just as John the Baptist was tireless in testifying to the one true light of Jesus, pray we too will be bold witnesses in today's world busied with sharing the good news and inviting people to believe and be baptized into the body of Christ for lives of faith, service and witness.

18 We remember in our prayers people who labor and serve throughout the holidays, giving thanks and recognition for their work and long hours. Pray they find time for rest, renewal, connecting with family and friends, and reflecting on the meaning of the holidays.

19 Stirred by the ever-present Spirit of God, give thanks and rejoice always in prayer, worship and moments of reflection.

20 Katharina von Bora Luther, died 1552 Give thanks to God for women of faith throughout history who have witnessed to the good news, pursued justice and peace in the world, helped form the faith of others and served as examples and mentors for us.

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 With child-like anticipation and excitement, we tell and hear the Christmas story over and over again, sharing the news of the life-changing gift and impact of Jesus' birth; we pray we are always open to this good news inspiring and reshaping our traditions, celebrations and consumer habits.

23 Laugh, rejoice and shout for joy for God has done great things and restores our spirits.

24 As we remember and retell the story of the world anticipating the promised birth of Jesus, the true Messiah, pray we not take for granted the gifts we long for and have received in the son of God, our savior – forgiveness, hope and redemption.

25 Christmas Day On this great day, we give glory to God for the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God among us, an undeserved gift bringing light to the darkness and life for all people.

26 With joyful hearts we give praise for what God has done for us and for revealing to us daily God's continuing activity in the world and – through our baptism – the diverse ways in which we are called to join with one another in serving our neighbor and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

27 Pray for students, teachers and school staff on break during the holidays that they are renewed and strengthened through spending time with family, friends and their communities.

28 We remember in our prayers parents grieving the loss of infants or children, and pray we learn to be attentive, supportive, patient and caring, especially when we struggle awkwardly to find words and actions that are appropriate and helpful throughout their grieving and healing.

29 Lift up humble prayers of gratitude for God's undeserved, awesome and surprising saving grace.

30 We continue to pray for refugees and immigrants, especially in the Middle East and Europe, asking God to grant them hope, safety, welcoming communities in which to rebuild their lives and resilience; pray we never lose empathy and active concern for their struggles, suffering and losses.

31 Everywhere we turn and look we see the wondrous, amazing creative hand of God. Praise the Lord, and give thanks!

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1769 Kendall Road - Kendall, New York 14476**

**Office Phone: 585-659-2778**

**Email: concordia\_kendall@hotmail.com**

Pastor Rev. Steve Meyer  
Music Director Jimmy Hartmann  
Parish Administrator Beth Schmidt  
Church Treasurer Mary Lou Lockhart  
Sexton Alan Lambert

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Tibbs Ahlberg  
Nancy Comstock  
Dorrie Hardenbrook Vice President  
Cathy Herman  
Russ Levett President  
Robin Schepler  
Beth Schmidt Secretary

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The CONCORDIAN is published monthly. We encourage all members to contribute articles which may be submitted to the Church office by the 3rd Sunday of the month. The pastor is available for visitation whenever requested, as well as hospital visits when informed. The Parish Administrator is at the office every Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon. If you have any questions, concerns or news for the bulletins or newsletters, Beth can be reached at 589-9488 any time.

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[www.concordialutherankendallny.org](http://www.concordialutherankendallny.org)

This Newsletter was printed on paper generously given by Christopher Mitchell Funeral Home.

**Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 a.m. AND 7:00 p.m.**

