

I noticed on my calendar that last month, on July 7<sup>th</sup> it was the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my ordination into the Holy Ministry. It made me reflect upon a word that we Christians in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) hear or read often, but do we really understand the significance of what it means? The word is “*Concordia*.”

Both of the Synod's seminaries bear the name *Concordia* in their official designations. Most of our colleges do as well. The *Book of Concord*, which contains our public Lutheran Confessions; confessions to which every congregation and pastor in this Synod bind themselves, is titled simply “*Concordia*” in Latin. So, why is this name so important?

In the introduction to the Readers' Edition of *The Book of Concord*, published by Concordia Publishing House in 2005, the word *Concordia* is explained like this, “*Concordia* comes from two Latin words meaning ‘with’ and ‘heart.’ It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep that it is as if those who share it have a single heartbeat.”

In common usage among Lutherans, based on this commitment to truth, the word means “harmony, agreement, and peace.” Every LCMS congregation must include a commitment to the documents contained in the *Book of Concord* as the standard of all true Biblical doctrine and practice. Likewise, every pastor of the Synod, at both his ordination and installation at an LCMS congregation, is asked whether he agrees that the Lutheran Confessions are in agreement with the Scriptures and the one true faith of the Christian Church. Each time his/their response is this, “Yes, I/we make these Confessions my/our own because they are in accord with the Word of God.”

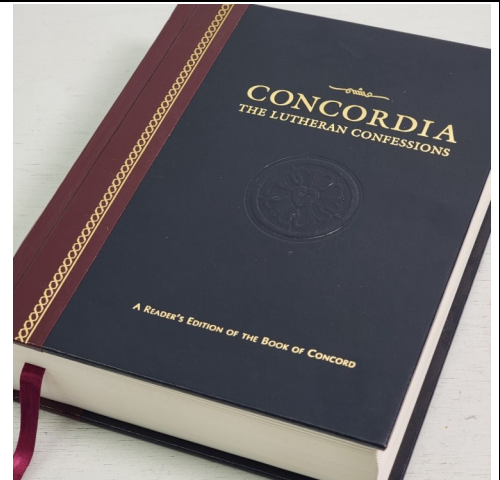
The pastor is then asked further, “Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions? The response is simple and without equivocation: “Yes, I promise, with the help of God.”

As you can see, this is not a promise that can be made light-heartedly – it is a vow and promise to both the congregation and to God Himself. These promises are what lie behind and drive every action I am to be about in Christ's service to you as His people. Perhaps it helps to explain why you hear me and other pastors seemingly “nitpick” about the words we use in anything that we publish at Mt. Calvary and how we teach and proclaim God's Word of truth in our sermons, Bible Studies and more.

So, how does this apply to you and me beyond that? This commitment, by both pastors and congregations, to the doctrine and practices of the Lutheran Confessions, is the basis for the peace and unity which Paul urges in 1 Corinthians 1:10, “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.” That is Scripture's call to *Concordia* for all of us Christians in our day to day lives.

But, are we actually “united in the same mind and ... judgment?” While there are some that might say the congregations and pastors of our Synod are not as united as we once were, I would say that when we compare the LCMS to most of the other Christian denominations today, we have been very blessed to remain faithful to our vows of *Concordia*.

Is there room for us to improve? Of course, we are all sinners to the core. There is no such thing as a perfect congregation or perfect Church body. But we can only remain in this Christ-centered unity when all of us, pastor and people alike, intentionally and lovingly take our *Concordia* seriously. This means that, with God's





help, we dedicate significant time to studying and reading God's Word together, and we truly yearn to partake of God's gifts in sacramental Worship weekly as God calls us to do in the Third Commandment.

Then when I, as your pastor, preach or teach something that doesn't seem to be right with Scripture, you as Christ's people, will be more able, because of a relationship already used to these kinds of conversations, to communicate your concerns with me so that we can look at the issue together with Scripture and cordially – through mutual confession and forgiveness if needed, be brought back to a God-pleasing *Concordia*. This

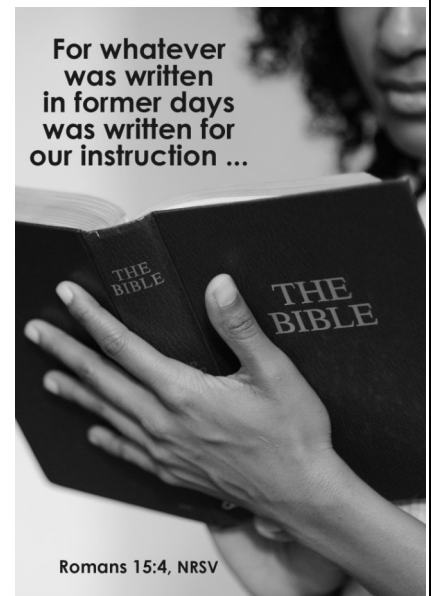
kind of loving accountability applies to all of our relationships with each other in Christ's Church. In fact, Paul directs us to these interactions, "so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ..." (Eph. 4:14-15).

As I reflect on my role with you at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, now in my 29<sup>th</sup> year as a pastor, I invite each of you to take a moment and think about your role in Christ's church as well. We are blessed beyond compare to be in this place at this time where we do not have to wonder, as many churches are today, about the certainty of our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone. Because we are in *Concordia*, our time is not consumed with squabbles and conflicts about our identity as Christ's redeemed people. This means we are free to dedicate our time and efforts growing in the one true faith and sharing the immense blessings we have in Christ with others far and wide.

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans, sharing his desire and prayer: "<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 15:4-6).

Your fellow servant in Jesus,

*Pastor Keith Beed*



**We now have a district newsletter—*The Rocky Mountain Express*!**  
Just type the information below into your browser:

<https://rm.lcms.org/resources-landing/rocky-mountain-express/>

Here is s sneak peak:

"Welcome to the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Newsletter! In this issue you will find... A Note from the President , Texas Flooding Report , Ordinations & Installations, Convention Recap, Upcoming Events Around the District, Extras."



## CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

**It's easy for us to find  
things to gripe about, but  
God's blessings abound!**

- ✦ The wonderful volunteers at our July 4 booth! It was a great day with a lot of contact with the public.
- ✦ The beautiful blue skies of Colorado.
- ✦ Safety for all those traveling over the summer with or to family and friends and back.
- ✦ For small daily reminders of God's work in our lives.
- ✦ For gifted and faithful Guest Pastors to provide a break for our gifted and faithful Pastor.
- ✦ For comfort in the knowledge that Rex, Harry, Larry, and Gary are with God in Eternal Paradise.
- ✦ For those who take care of the flower beds, the mowing, and the weeds.
- ✦ Everyone it takes to get a school ready for the new school year and to run it throughout the year.

*Count Your Blessings*

**Divine  
BIBLE  
Study**  
9:00am  
2nd and 4th Thursday  
of the month



The Divine Bible Study will be starting a new book on *Timothy, Titus and Philemon* on August 14th and

you are invited to attend. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 9 am. Contact Mark P. with questions.



## Bloom where you are planted.

- ✦ Get to know people in your community and church.
- ✦ Serve other people. It's what Christians do!
- ✦ Look for opportunities to share the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit is continually opening doors.

Pastor Dave Ahlman, podcast  
*Daily Truths with Dave Ahlman*

Mt. Calvary  
Lutheran  
Church



Presents:

**Craft Bazaar,  
Lunch, &  
Bake Sale**  
Oct. 18, 9-3pm

## Are you a crafter? Now is your chance to shine at our Fall Craft Bazaar, Lunch, and Bake Sale on October 18<sup>th</sup>!

We are giving church members the first chance to sign up for a table. Tables will cost \$30 / 8ft table or half a table for \$15. After you pay for the table, what you sell is yours, though we welcome any donations. Funds raised by the Bake sale, lunch, and the table charges will go to the church general fund. For now, we need a count of all members interested in a table, before we offer them to family or friends outside the church. There is a peach-colored sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you are interested in helping, please see Tracy T.

650 S. Park Ave.  
Ft. Lupton, CO  
303-857-6827







**Remember –**  
**Confirmands this includes YOU!**  
**Please remember that we cannot be a**  
**Youth Group without YOU!**



**All school age kids are welcome:**

As of the writing of this missive, Isaiah, Jacob, Owen, Nathan and Pastor are enjoying the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. I have been following Banana Señor on Instagram and am enjoying the pictures of their adventures. More information will follow next month.

Thank you Landon for taking the lead on the fishing trip. Thank you Elizabeth for taking the lead on National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

The next youth group meeting will be August 17<sup>th</sup>. School for most of our students will begin August 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>, but as my mother used to say, “You need to learn something new every day.” This is also true for our walk with Jesus. We need to read His Word every day and learn and do as He has instructed us in His Word. I always find myself looking up the definition of a word, or more information on the author of the text. Pastor Schnegelberger praised the authors of the Lutheran Study Bible for the outline they have written at the beginning of each book of the Bible. He used this outline for his Adult Bible Study lesson he presented on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and encouraged us to do the same in our daily readings.

Yours In Christ’s Service,  
Nona Schaefer, Chairperson Board of Youth

**YOUTH**  
Our next Meeting is:  
**August 17th**  
**After Sunday School**



**Summer is coming to an end and it is time to think about our Sunday School and Youth Bible Class.** If you are at all interested in being a substitute or a teacher for our Youth or elementary class, please speak to Tracy T. or Corinne G. We are continuing to offer Sunday School and Youth class until we start our new Sunday School year on **September 7th**, with **Rally Day**. Please remember to pray for all the teachers and students as they return to school (and Sunday School)!



**Speaking of school supplies, here is something to think about...**

The other day I was struck with an analogy as I was erasing a word I had written with pencil...

In Colossians 3:13, we read, *“Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”* God instructs us to forgive people, but what does that look like? In my experience, it generally looks like that word I erased—there are still indentations from the pencil and, usually, some smudge marks. Sometimes we

say we forgive someone but find it hard to let go of the grievance completely, we keep that “mark” or “indentation” in our memory to use again in future arguments, or as a reason not to trust someone.

Thankfully, when God forgives, He washes away our sins CLEAN (like a “washable marker”) —no marks, nothing is left. As God says in Jeremiah 31:34b, *“For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”* We are to forgive as “the Lord has forgiven [us]”, with nothing left of the original sin, no grudges, no digging up old offenses—remembering the sin “no more”. We should also remember this, *“If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9) And if God is willing to do that for us for all our sins, knowing we will continue to sin, we have no excuse not to do so for our fellow man.

- Tracy Tiscareño



## Thoughts *from your* Elder



Greetings,

There are two ways to start the day. Good Lord, morning. Or, Good morning, Lord. The words of my heavenly Father sing out, comforting me with His presence in my life. No memory of my earthly father having words of comfort come to mind. My dad never really shared his faith or beliefs

with me. I had no idea he even possessed any. Action was his main method of instruction, indeed there was corporal punishment in our household. I learned early on not to have to "wait until your father gets home." "Do as I say, not as I do" was often heard.



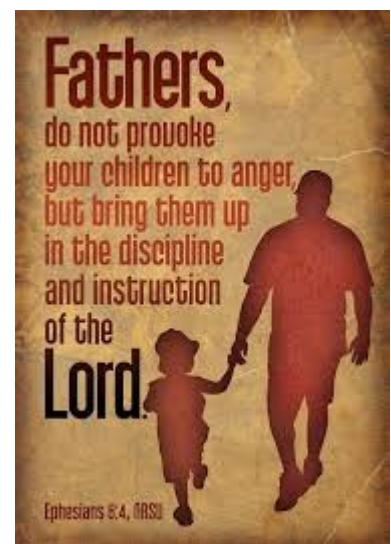
Ephesians 6:1-4 states, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise- that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." And then, Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it." And Proverbs 23:13-14 "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with a rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death." That thing about "this hurting me more than you," is not too far from the truth. Well, that is if the discipline is done in love.

Now, a lot of you know I am far, far, far, far from perfect, and often fail miserably in my life choices. However, unlike my father before me, I have not failed to share and to talk to my son about my faith and beliefs. I have failed, though, to NOT exasperate him. I can tell you this, I am not the only one. Having had the God given benefit of my mother's sharing faith later in my life, the encouragement of a brother who loves our LORD, a wife who diligently reminds me to heed the Lord, and, not to mention Pastor and all my Christian brothers and sisters, I am getting better at not exasperating many. The real struggle is for children to obey their parents IN THE LORD, if we aren't in the Lord ourselves. Our children see us, and they learn from our words and actions, just as I learned from watching my parents when I was a child. Pray our actions are God pleasing. Pray our children see that we are sinners too, in desperate need of a savior, and are trying with all our might to be the parents God wants us to be.

When we parents let the world interfere with bringing a child up in the right way, the way of wisdom, we fail the Lord. When we hold our tongues because we are unwilling to suffer the wrath of a child, spouse, coworker, friend, foe, or whomever, we fail the Lord. With every missed opportunity to witness, share the Gospel, help our neighbor, pray for and with those who need it, we fail the Lord, and our children. Woe to us, poor miserable sinners that we are. Thanks be to God for loving us anyway and sending us His perfect Son.

Would that we could mirror Christ as He mirrors the Father. Let us endeavor to not exasperate our children. After all, we are all children, and our Heavenly Father has not exasperated us. No, He has given us every good thing we need to be His children. The evil one is lurking about looking to snatch the children. We need to let the world know that we belong to the LORD! More so than ever, let us not fail Him!

The Peace of Christ be with you all, always.  
Mark O. Pilson





## Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #2 Trustees



Our Target: **We are good stewards of the property God has given us.**

**Goal #1: Complete three improvements to the church campus to make it more inviting by the end of 2025.**

- ✦ **Task:** Inspect our sign and repair/replace needed items.
- ✦ **Task:** Evaluate our fellowship hall to determine what updates are needed and how to best use the space to make it as inviting, welcoming and usable as possible for guests and members.
- ✦ **Task:** Evaluate East Lot for use and improvements

### **Completed Tasks for 2025:**

**-Installed new LED light fixtures in sign April of 2025**

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### **Board of Spiritual Outreach**



The Board would like to give a big “thank you” to all those that helped at the booth on the Fourth of July! To Kent and Elizabeth Dreher: thank you for holding down the canopy during the rainstorm and then setting it back up!!! You two were amazing! To Jan H., Tracy M., Mary Ann M. and Elizabeth: thank you for working the booth and reaching out to all that stopped by. To Mark P., and Michael K.: thank you for setting up and taking down the booth. We had a lot of visitors and gave away many items to the children as well as the adults.



The new Church Welcome Folders are now complete. We will be handing the folders out to our visitors and guests. We are still looking for people to be Greeters for the service and to help hand them out. Please see Judy Kimball if you are willing to help.

We are still collecting medicine bottle caps to be used by Miracle House and milk bottle caps from **Longmont Dairy** for Butler Elementary. Please place them in the boxes that are on the table by the restroom. Your donations have been helping tremendously.