



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI December 2022 Vol 43 No. 12

“Called to Nurture and Live our Faith, Encourage our Service, and Actively Share the Gospel”

From the Pastor:

Greetings, in the name of the God who comes to us where we are and as we are, born a helpless child in a dangerous world.

We are using Matthew’s Gospel this year, which tells of the magi visiting from the east, and the terrible event their visit with Herod triggered.

Today’s world has tragedies that are also incomprehensible, but we also have many joys and advantages hardly imagined just a few years ago.

We have so much, and our ELCA has a program through which we can share of our bounty with people around the world who have much less. It begins by listening to people in those communities, people who identify needs, priorities, and solutions that can provide the largest impact.

We’ve ordered an ornament (paperboard) pack with several options, so if you’d like, you can “purchase” the ornament, and then give the ornament to the person in whose name you give this gift to someone across the world who will be able to use it well.

Ornaments vary in cost from \$10 to \$150, but the Good Gifts program offers larger options as well. Gifts for which we have ornaments range from farm animals or honeybees to school supplies, a microloan for a small

business, and even sanitation equipment. Additional gifts available are as extensive as a water well (\$2500) or as simple as a fruit tree seedling (\$10).

The items provided are geared toward the place in which they will be given, so we aren’t sending things that will die because they don’t fit the environment. Each gift also includes whatever education might be needed to ensure the ability to use it well.

More information on the gifts available (list on page 6) to be given through this program can be found in the catalog at the rear of our worship space, or online at: [ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://www.elca.org/goodgifts)

For the ornaments, make your check out to Concordia Lutheran and put your information in the chart on the board in the rear of the worship space. **If there is no ornament for what you want to give**, you can still make your check out to Concordia and fill in the information on the chart. The week after Christmas we will send one check for all the moneys received on one order form with the totals of all the kinds of gifts purchased (and you can avoid being added to another mailing list... ☺) Of course, you can also make your gift directly online (at the underlined address in the center column).

Whatever gifts we can give



are good news to the person who receives them.

The good news for us is that we are gifted with God’s mercy without being charged a fee.

We are able to gather for worship without needing to purchase a ticket. The congregations of Superior will not, however, be able to continue indefinitely as we have in the past. The costs of maintaining our worship spaces and staffing continue to increase and our stewardship is challenged.

Maybe that’s why the magi offered gifts in honor of the birth of Jesus. They knew that hardships arise as a matter of course, and we deal with them because we must. We give in various ways because Jesus keeps on giving love and inspiration to us. Blessings!

In Jesus’ name.

Pastor Michelle



PARISH NURSING NOTES

It's hard to believe we're already entering Advent and the Christmas season! As a child, I remember how right after Thanksgiving, we would pour over catalogs (Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Wards) trying to choose what to put on our Christmas lists. We would start off wanting almost everything on each page, but gradually as we studied each item, we decided on the 5-6 items we really wanted. I guess most children go through a similar routine.

I also remember, as an adult, asking my parents for suggestions of things they might like as a Christmas gift. Very often their reply would be, "We already have everything we need or want." And now, as I have reached that stage of life, I have come to share that feeling. It seems that as we mature (NOT age!), we come to an attitude of appreciation and gratitude rather than of want. And what better time to express gratitude than at Christmas when we celebrate receiving the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus who died for our sins.

How many other gifts have we been given that we take for granted. We say "thank you" several times a day without even thinking about it – to a waitress bringing your food, to a cashier handing you a receipt. But how often do we express real gratitude for the truly important things we have been given. At a workshop I attended several years ago, we were asked to write down 5 things we were grateful for in the past week. It took a moment to start thinking of the first one or two things – and then, as they started flooding in, I found I couldn't write fast enough! The first

things were generic – family, health, home. Then they started getting specific – the workman who "just happened" to be at our house during the October snow storm, and offered to clear the driveway of the big tree that fell across it so Dick wouldn't have to worry about it after his back surgery. And proceeded to not only remove the tree, but also cut it up into fireplace lengths and bring them to the wood shed! And my heart that kept beating regularly through Dick's recovery and his Dad's recent hospitalization. And that's just the beginning!

As I would walk on the roads out around our house, I would often find myself singing under my breath, "This is the day that the Lord has made...let us rejoice and be glad in it." And I put in my own words for all the things I am grateful for – "These are my feet that the Lord has made... this is my heart...these are the trees...this is the sun...and on and on. As I go on, I keep finding more and more things to be thankful for, and it makes the walk much more enjoyable.

Practicing gratitude is also beneficial to our health. And it doesn't cost a thing! Research has shown that it can make you happier and healthier, both emotionally and physically. Thankful people tend to take better care of themselves, exercising regularly, eating a healthy diet, and seeking regular medical care. It also builds positive feelings. One large study suggests that the positive physical attributes linked to expressing gratitude may actually help prevent heart disease. It found that people who regularly express gratitude tend to: get more and better sleep at night; have fewer headaches, nausea, pain, and other physical symptoms of illness; experience less stress; have greater resistance to illness; have a greater sense of well-being; and view life as pleasurable, interesting, and exciting.

You can start by telling God daily what you are particularly grateful for that day. I am thankful to be a part of Concordia, a beautiful building with a rich history of hardworking, faithful members. I am grateful for all of you – your friendship and support, and allowing me to be a part of your lives.

Stay happy, healthy and grateful!.....Jean

Poinsettias will be purchased by the Altar Guild to decorate the chancel for Christmas. If you wish to donate (any amount) towards this, please use this form. You may make your donation in memory or in honor of a loved one if you wish. Please make your payment to Concordia Altar Guild and put Poinsettia Fund in the memo line. A list of donations will be in the Christmas bulletin



Donor: _____
In memory (deceased) of: _____
In honor (living) of: _____

(Make Checks payable to Concordia Altar Guild. The form and donation can be placed in the offering boxes in the Sanctuary or mailed to the Church Office) Poinsettia donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 18, 2022.

Annual Reports Due

Any Committees that have Reports for the Annual Report must be given to the Church Office on or before December 15, 2022.



Thank you to Mark & Kim Nygaard for the donation of the AC wall unit w/remote for Pastors Office.



100th Birthday Party

Betty Ursin will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on December 21. There will be a birthday celebration for her at the Keystone Bluffs Assisted Living Dining Room on Saturday, December 17th from 2-4. Anyone who wants to wish her a happy birthday (and enjoy some cake) is welcome to come. Keystone Bluffs Assisted Living is located at 2528 Trinity Rd, Duluth, MN 55811.

Lefse Making Event



On December 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. we will be making lefse. Anyone who wants can come and help with this event. The Lefse will then be put out to eat at the Advent Tea which is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2022 right after the Worship Service



Advent Tea Celebration

On December 4, 2022, a light lunch will follow the 10:00 service in the Library. We will have a Christmas Song singalong. Please bring cookies to share. Also need helpers to help set up, serve and clean up.

Memorials

In Memory of Leona Lindegren:

Sue Martin

Marie Peterson

Bill & Lois O'Neill (Bus fund)

Pete & Donna Quist (Riverside Cemetery)

In Memory of Jean Stensland:

Bill & Lois O'Neill (Bus fund)

Marie Peterson (Bus fund)

Sue Martin

In Memory of Helen Hankey:

Luise Drolson (Bus fund)

In Memory of Bev Oveson:

Bill & Lois O'Neill (Bus fund)

In Memory of Ed Nelson:

Ruth Erickson



Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve we will worship at 5:00.

Masks are optional, Seating is unrestricted.

Christmas Day is Sunday,

so we will gather for worship on Christmas Day at 10:00,
our regular worship time.

Clothing given to Family Forum for distribution



Family Forum Thank You
We received this thank you from
one of the recipients of the winter
wear that was given out.

Dear Concordia Church members,

*Thank you so very much
for your kind donation of
winter wear for my little
one. It is greatly appreciated
and will be well used. ☺*

Tommy & Mommy



ELCA Good Gifts

Available for giving around the world

Save a stamp. Give online! ELCA.org/goodgifts

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Chicks	WHG0106	\$10		
Rooster	WHG0133	\$15		
Family farm	WHG0107	\$715		
Goat	WHG0102	\$50		
Goat + flock of chicks	WHG0154	\$60		
Couple of goats	WHG0147	\$100		
Herd of goats	WHG0155	\$300		
Piglet	WHG0099	\$30		
Cow	WHG0097	\$500		
Share of a cow	WHG0098	\$50		
Fish farm	WHG0101	\$250		
Share of a fish farm	WHG0152	\$50		
Honeybees	WHG0100	\$20		
Honeybees + vegetable garden	WHG0153	\$220		
God's Global Barnyard	WHG0051	any \$ amount		
WATER	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Simple water well	WHG0108	\$2,500		
Share of a safe-water project	WHG0109	\$250		
Water filter	IDG0099	\$30		
Irrigation project	WHG0111	\$100		
Latrine	WHG0134	\$150		
WOMEN AND CHILDREN	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Computer for a community center	WHG0162	\$800		
Environmentally friendly cookstove	WHG0166	\$105		
Farmers' field school for a woman	WHG0148	\$75		
One month of internet connectivity for students	WHG0168	\$100		
Microloan for a woman	WHG0119	\$125		
School fees and uniform for a girl	WHG0121	\$40		
School supplies for a child	WHG0122	\$10		
School supplies for a classroom	WHG0123	\$300		
AGRICULTURE	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Fruit-tree seedling	WHG0124	\$10		
Fruit-tree farm	WHG0125	\$150		
Community vegetable garden	WHG0126	\$200		
Seeds and gardening tools	WHG0157	\$50		

HEALTH CARE	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Hygiene kit	WHG0167	\$25		
Mosquito net	WHG0138	\$10		
Mosquito nets for a family	WHG0165	\$20		
Stock a health clinic for a week	WHG0118	\$75		
Personal protective equipment	IDG0101	\$25		
Clinic visit for a child	WHG0114	\$10		
Nutrition for a child: one month	WHG0116	\$25		
Nutrition for a child: one year	WHG0117	\$300		
Vaccinations for a child	WHG0113	\$30		
INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCIES	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Feed a refugee family: one week	IDG0081	\$50		
Feed a refugee family: one month	IDG0082	\$200		
Week of trauma counseling	DDG0092	\$160		
Month of trauma counseling	DDG0091	\$640		
Blanket	IDG0093	\$10		
GROW THE CHURCH	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Bible	GCS1001	\$12		
Sunday school start-up kit	GCS1003	\$65		
Motorbike for a pastor	GCS1002	\$375		
LEADERS AND CHANGE-MAKERS	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Scholarship support for an int'l woman leader	GCS5001	\$100		
One week of tuition for one seminary course	E270134B	\$150		
One month of tuition for one seminary course	E270134D	\$600		
One semester of tuition for one seminary course	E270134C	\$2,500		
Vocational training	WHG0158	\$75		
HELP AT HOME	Item	Price	Qty	Total
Stock a backpack with food	WHG0129	\$10		
Month of necessities for a disaster survivor	DDG0080	\$200		
One night of shelter for a vulnerable LGBTQIA+ youth	WHG0164	\$50		
One week of shelter for a vulnerable LGBTQIA+ youth	WHG0163	\$350		
Feed 10 at a soup kitchen	WHG0130	\$20		
Feed 50 at a soup kitchen	WHG0131	\$100		
GIVE WHERE NEEDED MOST	MCG0053	any \$ amount		

☐ Please check here if you would like a card for each of your gifts delivered to your home. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

TOTAL

RS22C

Your donation will be used where needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the United States or abroad.

See the information on this program in Pastor's article on the first page.

"From Worry to Wonder"

A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God is doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,

Rev Laurie Sta. O'Brien

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10 *From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace*

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace

Romans 15:4-13 *Live in harmony, welcoming one another*

Matthew 3:1-12 *A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord*

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us."

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10 *The desert blooms as God's people return from exile*

Psalms 146:5-10 *The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down*

James 5:7-10 *Patience until the coming of the Lord*

Matthew 11:2-11 *The forerunner of Christ*

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Prayer of the Day (for December 18): Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16, *The sign of Immanuel*

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved*

Romans 1:1-7 *Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*

Matthew 1:18-25 *A God near at hand*

Sunday, December 24, Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prayer of the Day. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7 *Light shines: a child is born for us*

Psalms 96 *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad*

Titus 2:11-14 *The grace of God has appeared*

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] *God with us*

Sunday, December 25, Nativity of Our Lord II: Christmas Day

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Prayer of the Day. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 62:6-12 *God comes to restore the people*

Psalms 96 *Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart*

Titus 3:4-7 *Saved through water and the Spirit*

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 *The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds*

~ December 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9a-12p Lefse Making Event	2	3
4 10a-11a Worship 11a-12p Advent Tea 12p-1p Council Meeting (after Advent Tea)	5	6 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study	7	8	9	10
11 10a-11a Worship	12 6p-7p Property Management Committee	13 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study	14 1:30p-2:30p Harmony House Worship	15 9:30a-1p Pastor's Conference Meeting (Our Savior's Lutheran Church\, 11405 S 1st St W\, Solon Springs\,)	16	17
18 10a-11a Worship	19 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	20 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 5p-6p Worship Service
25 Christmas	26	27 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study	28	29	30	31



Altar Flowers for December

December 4

In loving memory of William Lindstrom given
by Carol Lindstrom & Family

December 11

Altar Guild

December 18

In Memory Ralph & Shirley Nelson given by
Ann Novack

December 25

In Memory of Lorraine Peterson given by
Tom & Nancy O'Neill, Keegan & Ali, Kali &
Jordan

Serving in December

Ushers

December 4

Team I Ken Harmer

December 11

Team II Eric Sewall

December 18

Team III Joyce Olson

December 24

Team I Ken Harmer

December 25

Team II Eric Sewall

Bus Driver

December 4

Ken Harmer

December 11

Brett Quist

December 18

Pete Quist

December 24

Kris Hanson

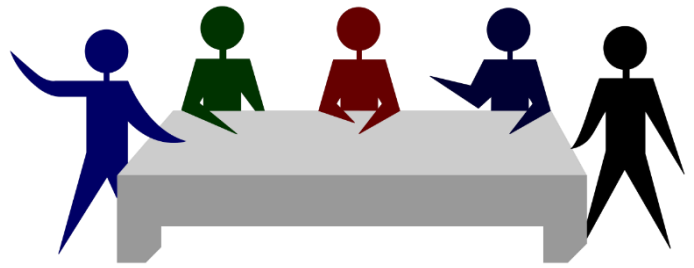
December 25

Brett Quist

Financial Assistants

Eric Sewall & Brett Quist

**If you are willing to serve on the council or
on a committee, please make your desires
known to the office or a council member.**



**Your Church Council members, working
together with you in ministry:**

Council met long enough after the Annual meeting to
determine current officers, but has not yet determined
committee relationships. No other new members
were elected for 2022.

President, Mike Olson	715-398-0343
Vice President, Mark Thompson	715-392-3166
Secretary, Ken Harmer	218-390-8218
Treasurer, Doug Score	218-260-0657
Matt Ketola	715-363-2567
Kris Hanson	715-977-1260

**Concordia's Annual
Meeting will be on
Sunday, January 22
after worship.**

Lunch will be provided.

Concordia Lutheran Church
1708 John Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Superior, WI
Permit No. 254

Address Service Requested

*A form is enclosed on page 3
for Poinsettias, if you wish to
make a donation in memory or
in honor of a loved one.*

Place label here

The Concordian is published monthly since 1981 by:

Concordia Lutheran Church
1708 John Avenue Superior, WI 54880
(715) 394-3762 – Office
(Formerly Concordia Churchman 1961-1981)

e-mail:

Pastor Michelle: rowell.michelle.r@usa.net
Church Office: concordiasuperior@gmail.com

Websites:

Church website: www.concordiasuperior.org
Synod website: www.nswi.org
ELCA website: www.elca.org
Luther Point Bible Camp website: www.lutherpoint.org
Resource Center website: www.synodresourcecenter.org

Michelle R. Rowell, Pastor
Beth Sobczak, Keyboards
Dr. Héctor Landa, Keyboards
Carol Lindegren, Office Manager
Jean Riedasch, Parish Nurse
Kent Peterson, Custodian
Matthew Eastman, Technologies

Contributors: Many
Assembly/mailling: Our faithful volunteers

The Concordian

December

Vol. 43 No. 12

A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church
Superior, Wisconsin
715.394.3762

www.concordiasuperior.org

NOTICE

If you are receiving this newsletter and do not wish to, please contact the church office. If you know someone who should receive it or wishes to be added, please have them contact our office.

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

Online at: facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior
Distanced in-person worship now available!

Mission Statement

As members of the body of Christ at Concordia, **we are called** to be God's forgiven, gifted, diversified and unified people. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we **nurture and live our faith** in Jesus Christ, **encourage our service** in His church, and **actively share the Gospel** in our community and the world.