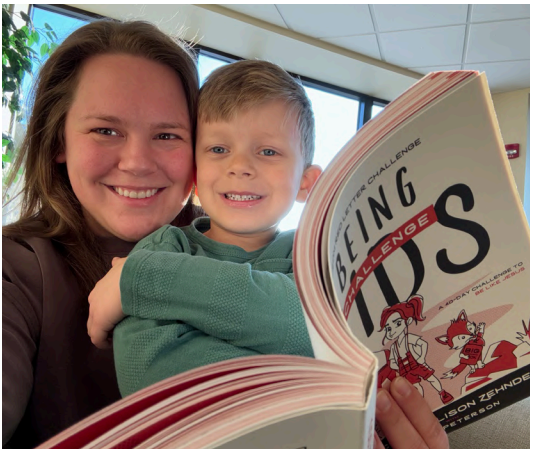


THE GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Cornerstone Lutheran Church

February 2025

BEING CHALLENGE!



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Reading this newsletter online? Click on anything above & jump to that page!

CLC is building God's kingdom by reaching beyond ourselves to bring people into a caring community.

From the Pastor

Red Letter Being Challenge: What if you get off track?

We're off and running with the *Red Letter Being Challenge*! So far (as of the publication of this newsletter) we have explored the five keystone habits and have dug into "committing to community," exploring its benefits for finding direction and purpose, as well as the hidden trap of our individualistic culture.

How is it going so far? Lots of you are probably cruising right along, reading and meeting with your group. Or...maybe not. Did you know the most common day to abandon New Year's resolutions is the second Friday in January? That's the thing about habits: Life is busy, situations arise, and the habits fall away. If that describes your *Being Challenge* experience, then what?

All of this is about growing closer to God (being more like Jesus)—so to answer that let's remind ourselves how He feels about "backsliders". A few scripture verses come to mind, like when God says "His mercies are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23). Or when the writer of Hebrews plays on this when he encourages us to "exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today" (Hebrews 3:13). In other words, if it's today—which it always is!—there is an opportunity to come back into the fold, back to God's loving plan! Another place is when Jesus says all this in the form

of a story when He tells the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32): The wandering young man who deeply disrespects his father. Nevertheless, when the son finally returns the father doesn't shun him, but runs to him with arms wide open!

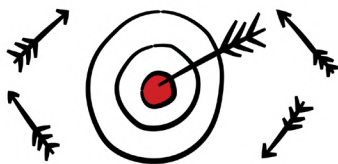
Our God is a God of second and third and fourth (and... and...) chances! He's a God of grace and redemption and renewal. That's our model for this *Being Challenge*, too! What we most want is not to do the procedures correctly or read every word in the right order; it's for all of us to grow closer to Jesus. So if you've gotten a bit off track, or you do as we go along, just do these two things: One, give yourself grace (because Jesus is!) and two, pick back up again. You can start where you left off, or you can join back in at the current day and circle back for the rest later. (*Challenge calendars are at the display at church, or on your Church Center app.*) There's no right or wrong answer or way to do this Challenge—there is only grace! It's not too late (it's never too late)! You can do this!



Pastor Jason Taber



Worship



Being Challenge sermons & scripture emphases

Our sermon series will lead us to a stronger relationship with God through simple challenges that focus on the 5 keystone habits of Jesus: Community, Scripture, Prayer, Solitude, and Church. For more information on the Being Challenge, visit CornerstoneLutheran.churchcenter.com/pages/being-challenge.

The following are the sermon themes and scriptures assigned for that weekend's worship. (The * indicates the scripture emphasis for the sermon.)

- **Feb. 1/2:** "Being Challenge: Study Scripture" — Psalm 19:7-14; Romans 10:14-17; *Luke 24: 44-49
- **Feb. 8/9:** "Being Challenge: Prioritize Prayer" — *Mark 1:35-39; James 5:13-18; John 14:12-14
- **Feb. 15/16:** "Being Challenge: Seek Solitude" — Philippians 4:8-9; Psalm 46:1-11; *John 15:1-5
- **Feb. 22/23:** "Being Challenge: Choose Church" — Acts 2:42-47; *Hebrews 10:19-25; Luke 21:37-38

Upcoming Events

DADDY *daughter* DANCE!

FEB. 7, 6-8 PM
CORNERSTONE CARMEL

FEB. 22, 6-8 PM
CORNERSTONE FISHERS



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AT  **church center**

Cornerstone Lutheran's MOMCo groups at Carmel and Fishers invite dads to a night out with their daughter(s) at our annual Daddy-Daughter Dances! Join us for dancing, activities, and snacks! To register, use your Church Center app, or go to our website and search "Daddy Daughter". If you are reading this electronically, you can use the following links:

[CARMEL Dance Registration](#)

[FISHERS Dance Registration](#)

This event is hosted by and benefits CLC MOMCo (formerly MOPS), an integral outreach ministry for young moms in our community.



Italian Dinner seeks your amazing desserts!

Calling all bakers! Our Italian Dinner desserts were a big hit at the 2022 Dinner, so we are once again asking for volunteers to make or purchase

any of the following Italian desserts for our Student Ministry Italian Dinner on February 15:

- Cheesecake
- Tiramisu
- Lemon Ricotta Cake
- Chocolate Cake
- Cannoli

Sign up at [CornerstoneLutheran.church](https://www.cornerstonechurch.org), search "Italian Dinner".



Band concert Feb. 28

The Concert Band of Concordia University St. Paul will perform at our Carmel site Sanctuary on Friday, February 28, at 6 PM. We're excited to be one of the stops on their 2025 Spring Tour!

Under the direction of Aaron Isakson, the Concert Band, which includes a full percussion section, will perform an hour and 15 minute program consisting of spiritual music, hymn arrangements, and traditional wind band music. Concordia University music groups are some of the best in the country, so don't miss this great concert!

Upcoming Summer Events



VBS 2025 is June 9-12: Volunteer registration opens Feb. 3!

Mark your calendars for our Vacation Bible School this summer! It will be at all our sites on June 9-12

(Monday through Thursday) from 9 AM to noon. (Yes, all sites will be 9 AM to noon this year!) Your kids will go on the ultimate Alaskan adventure and explore the vast and expansive love of Jesus! He is our "TRUE NORTH"!

Volunteer registration opens soon!

Volunteer registration will open Sunday, February 2, at 7 AM. Please register for your site, below. And remember: those who volunteer early will also get to register their family early! (*Regular student registration opens on our website and Church Center app on Monday, March 3.*)

To volunteer, use your Church Center app, or go to our website and search "VBS". If you are reading this electronically, you can use the following links:



[CARMEL Volunteer Registration](#)

[FISHERS Volunteer Registration](#)

[EAGLE CREEK Volunteer Registration](#)

[INDY Volunteer Registration](#)

**Fine Arts Academy:
Mark Your Calendar**



Fine Arts Academy 2025

We invite all kindergartners through 8th graders to attend Fine Arts Academy 2025 on June 16-20! This week-long summer day camp is focused on being "Together" in community with Him and with each other.

Mark your calendar, too for registration! It opens Sunday, March 16, at 1 PM on the Church Center app (and fills up quickly!). For more information, visit [CornerstoneLutheran.church/faa](https://www.cornerstonelutheran.church/faa). Our brochure with class offerings will be available soon. We are looking forward to FAA camp this summer with you!

**2025 Student Ministry
Golf Scramble**
Friday, June 27
Eagle Creek Golf Club

SAVE the DATE!

Registration & sponsorship info coming this spring!

Serving Our Community

February's Collection: Items for Seminary Co-op

Our seminarians, deaconess students, and their families at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne (CTSFW) make many sacrifices while pursuing pastoral or deaconess ministry. So, congregations like Cornerstone help with their basic needs. This month, donations will go to this co-op.

The Co-op has given us a list of needed/preferred items. Deaconess Katherine Rittner, their new co-op manager, says "The Food and Clothing Co-op currently feeds 160 students and their families—approximately 425 people, including more than 200 children." (You can find out more at their website: www.ctsfw.edu/food-and-clothing-co-op.)



Let's all thank our CTSFW students and their families by contributing toward their needs in the following ways. (If you are reading a hard copy of this newsletter, visit our website and search "co-op" to find the links referred to below.)

Material Donations: To find out the Co-op's needs, see the flyers placed at your site's collection bin, or download their list by [CLICKING HERE](#). Volunteers from CLC will drive collected items to CTSFW, and will be delighted to need multiple vehicles or trips to deliver your generous contributions! Please bring in your donations by Sunday, Feb. 23.

Financial Donations: You can also contribute financially and support their local purchases of perishable items by [CLICKING HERE](#). Under "What would you like your donation to support?", please be sure to click the drop-down arrow and select "Food & Clothing Co-op".

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. — Gal. 6:6 (ESV)



Collecting treats for college students

We are sending Valentine's care packages to our college students on Sunday, February 9, to let them know we're thinking of them and praying for them. You can help us share the love! Please contribute to these care packages by donating individually-wrapped snacks/breakfast items or other small snacks. (Last fall, we sent out 70 care packages!) Bring your donations to our Carmel or Fishers sites, or send them to the Carmel site (like via Amazon), by Friday, February 7.

These are for college students from ALL sites!

If your student received a care package last fall, they will automatically receive one of these. If they didn't, or if their address has changed since then, please fill out this form: CornerstoneLutheran.churchcenter.com/people/forms/597990.

Worship at Carmel? Help us pack Feb. 9!

Packing these boxes is so much fun! Join the packing party on Sunday, February 9, after the late services at our Carmel site, room 102.



Support victims of California wildfires

Horrific wildfires in Southern California have destroyed thousands of homes and local resources, and there is extreme scarcity of housing and basic human needs. In addition, relief organizations are stretched thin after last fall's hurricanes and floods in North Carolina.

To support those in California who are rebuilding, you can donate through our trusted partner, LCMS Disaster Response, at LCMS.org/givenow/disaster. You can find other ways to help at LCMS-lert.org.



GriefShare support groups at Carmel & Fishers

If you've lost a spouse, child, parent, or friend, it can be a hard and confusing time—you may feel isolated and have questions about things you've never faced before. Don't go through it alone. Join a caring group of people that will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.

Please register for the site of your choice by contacting the facilitator through your Church Center App directory, calling the church office at 317-814-4252, or emailing info@cornerstonelutheran.church. And remember: You are welcome to come to a group session at any time (even if you didn't register)—you don't have to come to every session!

Fishers site

Mondays through April 7
6:30-8:30 PM
Classroom A
Facilitator: Ann Gerber

Carmel site

Thursdays, February 27–May 22
2-4 PM
Room 101B
Facilitator: Jan Lefton

Fellowship Events

For more information on any of the following items, either contact the person listed through your Church Center directory, email connect@cornerstonelutheran.church, or call church at 317-814-4252.



CARMEL: Monthly Luncheon

February's Senior Luncheon meets on Monday, February 3, noon, in Carmel room 102. Our speaker for the day will be Vicar Logan Davis (rescheduled from our cancelled January luncheon). Vicar Logan will share with us a TED-type talk about himself and his CLC experiences thus far.

Please bring something to share for our pitch-in luncheon. (Gloves will be available at the buffet line if you would like to use them.) Come enjoy a delicious meal, fellowship, and learn about Vicar Logan.

EAGLE CREEK/CARMEL: Join us for euchre

EAGLE CREEK: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (Feb. 5 & 19), 1-3 PM, in the portable classroom. (Facilitator: Robert Lucke.)

CARMEL: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month (Feb. 12 & 26), 1-3 PM, in the Senior Lounge. (Facilitator: Verne Hanson.)

CARMEL: Widows

Join us for lunch at The Roost (7371 E 116th St, Fishers) on Thursday, February 27, at 1 1:30 AM. RSVP to Barb Malmloff or the church office.

FISHERS: Older Adults Lunch

Our Older Adult Gathering and luncheon will be Tuesday, February 25, at noon. Lunch will be provided (free will offering) along with water and iced tea. Our program will be by Knute Rotto, owner of Senior Care Advisory. His presentation will include information about where and how to find senior/eldercare services and when might be the appropriate time for those services. He'll also share additional resources on legal assistance, in-home care, and much more!

For food planning purposes, please let us know if you are attending by contacting Jackie Gehrlein through your Church Center directory, or the church (information at top).

Faith Formation

Youth Gathering opportunities for YOU!

We are excited to be sending more than 100 youth and adults to the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering on July 17-23 in New Orleans! Even if you're not going, you can still be involved! Here's how:

Be a Prayer Partner!

We would like to surround this group with our prayers! We are inviting you to "adopt" a student for whom you will pray as they anticipate the Gathering, attend the Gathering, and as they return. Along with prayers, we also encourage each Prayer Partner to prepare a gallon-size zip-top bag of goodies for their student's travel day this summer. We will provide a list of suggested items as the date draws near, as well as include any allergy information and recommendations for those individuals.

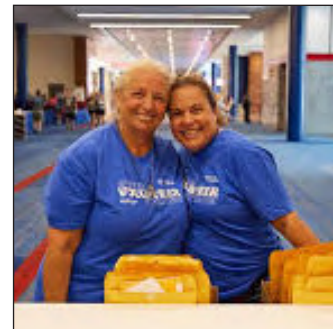
If you would like to be a Prayer Partner for one or more of our students, please contact Clarissa Hay through your Church Center App, or by emailing info@cornerstonelutheran.church. If you would like to pray for a specific student, simply let her know that too; otherwise we will happily assign one to you. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our youth through prayer!

Be a part of Team Flex!

Are you looking for a flexible volunteer opportunity to make an impact AT the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering? Adults ages 18+ can now apply to serve on Team Flex! Team Flex volunteers commit to serving at the Gathering, anywhere from 4 hours for a single day up to 8 hours all 5 days of the Gathering—the time commitment is up to you!

As a Team Flex Volunteer you will commit to arranging and paying for your own travel, housing, and meals; wearing blue; working at the Gathering wherever needed; and serving Gathering participants with a smile! (Team Flex volunteers do not pay a registration fee.)

Visit LCMSgathering.com/volunteer for detailed FAQs about the Team Flex opportunity and registration. Deadline to register is April 30.



Bibles for 3-year-olds

This March we will be having our special Bible presentations for our 3 year olds (those who are or will turn 3 by August 1, 2025). There will also a Parent/Child class on the day of the presentations during the Sunday School time. A special part of that morning is presenting that Bible to your child during a worship service!

Please register to participate at your site, using of of the links, below. Or, fill out a registration form on your Church Center app.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

- **Carmel:** 8:30 AM Sanctuary, 10:45 AM Worship Center
- **Fishers:** 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Reading this online? [Register for Carmel or Fishers HERE.](#)

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

- **Eagle Creek:** 10:45 AM
- **Indy:** 10:45 AM

Reading this online? [Register for Eagle Creek or Indy HERE.](#)



Registration open for 2025-26 school year

Cornerstone Lutheran Preschool at our Carmel and Eagle Creek sites are accepting student registrations for the 2025-26 school year. Find out more about our preschool, and register your child, at:

CornerstoneLutheran.church/preschools

Outreach

Every month we share concrete tips and ideas around a particular outreach theme.

February's Outreach

Thought: 43%

by Jason Taber, Pastor of Outreach



That's the number of unchurched Gen-Z Americans (18-25 years old) who have *no* prior

connection to the church. It's not that they grew up in church then walked away—they have *never* had a connection or relationship with a church. I read that several months ago and haven't been able to shake it. I've been stuck on the thought: What does this mean for us as we try to share our faith with them? Here are two things that come to mind:

Don't assume they're hostile.

Sometimes we think this—especially about younger people—and it can be an obstacle. More likely, they don't know much about Christian faith or church. Start with an assumption that they're basically open, and share your ideas as something you believe and you find helpful (not something they should necessarily believe or find helpful).

Adjust your starting point. If these young people have no connection to the Church, then they are (right now) no more likely to come to a worship service than you are to attend prayers at a mosque or read from The Book of Mormon. It's that unfamiliar to them; it's that disconnected from their life. This is a stark comparison that always helps me think about how to approach my unchurched friends.

Mission Trips: Sharing God's love beyond ourselves

Cornerstone is participating in several mission trips this year! Below is information about one of those—our mission trip to El Salvador.

For a full list of 2025 mission trips, visit our website: cornerstonelutheran.church/stories/2025-mission-trips. Questions? Contact Pastor Jason (jtaber@cornerstonelutheran.church).



2025 MISSION TRIP

WHERE	Apaneca, El Salvador <i>(approximately a two-hour drive from San Salvador, the nation's capital)</i>
WHEN	Saturday, April 26, 2025 to Saturday, May 3, 2025
WHO	Cornerstone Lutheran Church <i>In partnership with The Fuller Center for Housing</i>

Why are we going?

Approximately 30% of people in El Salvador are living in poverty, including an extreme poverty level of housing.

What will we be doing?

Our team will be hands-on, building a house. The exact work will be decided by The Fuller Center. No building skills are required!

What's the cost?

Projected cost of the trip is \$1,500 per person. The Fuller Center will provide the transportation and two interpreters throughout the week.

Who do I contact about this trip?

Contact Craig Huffman (chuffman@cornerstonelutheran.church)

Why should you consider being part of a CLC Mission Trip? Find out by watching this video on our YouTube channel:

https://youtu.be/bZfWYHd_S7A



Outreach (cont.)

International Friends in community with others locally & around the world

We continue to reach out and care for our International community in Indiana and beyond. We would love for you to join us as we meet to support and assist our Friends. By opening our building and our hearts, we are extending hospitality to people looking for support, fellowship, and community. The church is a wonderful place to be exposed to the love and care we extend to one another. Contact Carolyn Willard (indyintlfriends@gmail.com) if you are interested!

Our International Friends staff is continuing to work on personal and professional development to increase skills and extend our reach into the teaching and leading communities so we can help other teachers and programs benefit from our almost 20 years of experience.

American English & Culture

We are starting the new year concentrating on our public and professional stories, and creating and refining resumes. AI and resume generators lead our Friends to create American-style resumes (sometimes significantly different than in their home countries). We are honing our answers to be specific to our lives. This creates the historical context for professional communication, vocabulary, and more, and helps us to practice and refine our American English grammar. In essence, their resume becomes their professional text book. A resume can encompass more than paid positions—volunteering, running a household, hobbies, and interests all play a role in shaping our narrative and direction. You can join us as “professional American English speakers” or to refine your communication and storytelling skills to help others and grow your resume.

Kids Conversation Group

We are continuing to meet on Friday evenings on Zoom. Our kids are growing up fast! They continue to meet and share their life and interests on Zoom.

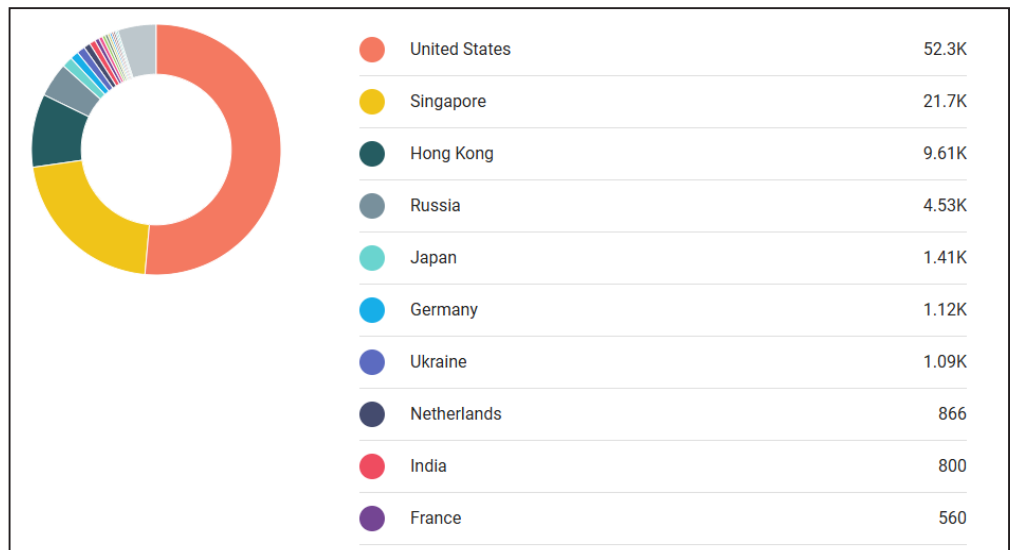
International Bible Study

Our Friends in the United States and Japan continue to study Genesis. We were surprised and astounded

at the behaviors of the characters in the beginning. When we encountered the same old, same old in Genesis 25 we wanted to call Jerry Springer! Our study is amazing. We are seeing how our God is patient and merciful.

International Friends Blog

Our blog pages continue to reach out around the world. For example, January 14-20 saw 244 views, and has had more than 100,000 views over time. It's so interesting to see where our readers are from (see chart below for the top 10 countries)! Visit our blog at indyinternationalfriends.blogspot.com.



Indy Taiji Club

Join us for Taiji on Saturdays, 9-10 AM, in the Carmel site gym. No special clothing needed. Follow along and practice balance and focused attention.

Painting and Art Club

We meet the second Saturday in room 101B to work on new or current projects. Members are currently working on pieces for the Nature's Inspiration Art Show at Cool Creek (February 22-March 9).

Tomodachi

Tomodachi means “friends” in Japanese. Our Japanese and American friends meet once a month. CLC Carmel is honored to be the home base for this group of women who meet to share culture and provide welcome to Japanese ex-pats. Through this act of simple hospitality, people are introduced to the church.

News from Our Play Areas

Indy Play Area is expanding!

The Play Area at our Indianapolis site has helped us connect with nearly 200 families in our community! And just this last week we received the following Google review that speaks to that:

"We needed a place like this in our community! The indoor playground area is awesome for kids who need space to get their energy out. It has a little bit of everything, and my kids can't wait to go back again!"



As we prepare upgrades to this ministry through the addition of brand new play equipment and a resurfaced and inviting gym floor, we also want to expand our opportunities to welcome families by opening on additional days during the week. Our plan is to add Monday and Wednesday mornings to our days open (in addition to the current Tuesday and Thursday mornings).

Extra days = more people!

We are seeking those who have both time available in the morning and a heart for these families. Our immediate need is for those who can be at the Play Area on Tuesdays, 9 AM-12 PM. (No significant bending or lifting is required.) We are also looking for those who can be at our Play Area on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 AM-12 PM, ready to go when we add those days.

This is an easy and fun way to support the continued growth of our Indy site and help neighbors take one step closer to a relationship with Jesus simply by being a friendly and welcoming presence. For questions or to help on any of the days, contact Pastor Jason (jaber@cornerstonelutheran.church).



Fishers Play Area events

Story Time (see photo, above): Friday mornings, 10-10:30 AM, in our education hallway. This Kids' Story Time for young children and their parent or caregiver, includes a Bible story, craft, and more!

Donuts & Dads: Give mom a morning off and bring the kids (up to age 12) to our play area on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, from 8:30-10:30 AM (next dates: February 1 & 15). Take the kids out for the morning to play while you connect with other dads. This is for dads and kids from both our church and community.



Every month, our Confirmation students take part in a service project to pack food bags for Sense Charter School students. Because of these efforts of our youth, the Sense Charter students are able to take that bag home on Friday so they have food for their family over the weekend.

Take a Trip!

See Museum of the Bible with the Gigers

On February 21–24, Pastor Scott & Kate Giger will be hosting a weekend bus trip to Washington, DC, to tour the amazing Museum of the Bible, and other sites around the city. (Imagine Pastor Scott as your personal tour guide at the Museum of the Bible—how amazing would that be!)



There is still room for you! Cost is \$1,000/person for single occupancy, or \$650/person for double occupancy, and includes deluxe motor-coach transportation to/from Washington, DC, three-nights lodging at Kimpton George Hotel, and admission to the Museum. (Cost does not include meals.) The trip is open to 35 people.

To register for this weekend getaway, use this link: [Cornerstone Lutheran.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2605483](https://CornerstoneLutheran.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2605483). Questions? Contact Ashley Wedmore (awedmore@cornerstonelutheran.church).

Among Us

Birth

Henry Joseph Haverstock, grandson of Ron & Sally Haverstock, born Jan. 13. (Parents: Kevin & Elyse Haverstock.)

Baptism

Aurora Kay Haymaker, granddaughter of Scott & Lori McGlinch, Jan. 25. (Parents: Chelsea & Samuel Haymaker.)

Sympathy to the families of

Don Schiff
(Judy Shaffer's cousin)

Trenea Reinhardt
(Kendall Guse's aunt)

Sara "Sally" Sandell
(Jim Mayes' mother)

From Lutheran High School

Student applications now open

Applications are open for the 2025-2026 school year. Visit LHSI.org for more information.



Saints on Stage presents "Annie"!

Saints on Stage is bringing the beloved Broadway classic "Annie" to the stage, and you won't want to miss it! Featuring an incredibly talented cast and crew of more than 60 students (including CLC's own Rachel Murphy in the starring role as Annie!), this show tells the inspiring story of a young orphan who, against all odds, transforms her life from rags to riches—teaching us all about resilience, hope, and the power of finding family in unexpected places.

Annie takes place February 28–March 2 in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium at Lutheran High School. Tickets will be available beginning February 1 and can be purchased at LHSI.org.

LuFest Week begins February 3



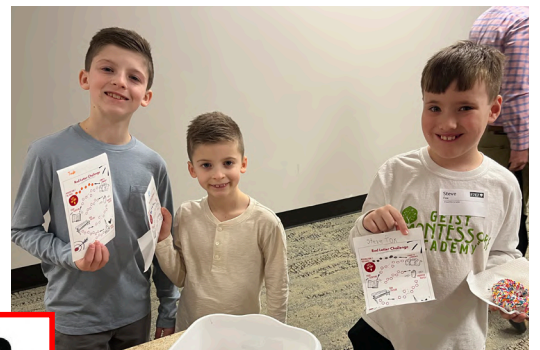
LuFest is an evening of celebration and fun, and the largest fund raiser for Lutheran High School. Although ticket sales will have concluded by the time you receive this newsletter, everyone is invited to preview and bid on silent auction items from February 3 to 7 at LuFest.org (or consider making a donation to the High School).

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CornerstoneLutheran.church

Change Service Requested



The Good News is published monthly for the disciples and friends of Cornerstone Lutheran Church. We welcome you to worship with us! For information on service times, please call the church office at 317.814.4252 or visit our website at CornerstoneLutheran.church. (Cathy Klemm, Newsletter Editor – cklemm@cornerstonelutheran.church).



BEING
CHALLENGE

