

Spring 2026

CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS
OF OMAHA | K-12

MUSTANG NEWS

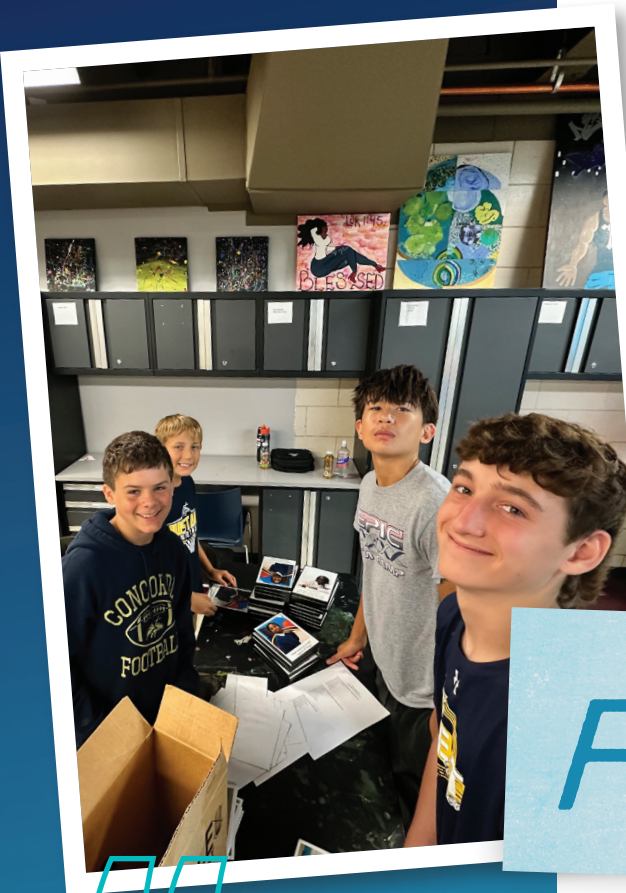


Faith Secure *WE PREPARE*
World Ready *Kingdom Leaders*

SERVANT LEADERS *towel folders!*

AFTER SPOTTING MR. SCOTT FOLDING TOWELS ONE DAY, OUR KINDERGARTENERS ASKED IF THEY COULD HELP—and a new tradition was born. Each morning, they fold towels as a way to practice math, serve the school, and show appreciation, all while building a sweet friendship with Mr. Scott. The students don't see it as a chore, but as a joyful way to be helpers.





Faith in Action:

EACH YEAR, FAITH IN ACTION DAY STANDS AS ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL TRADITIONS AT CONCORDIA. It's a day when every student steps outside the classroom to live out what we teach all year long, putting faith into action through service. Across the city, students serve at various locations, partnering with local ministries, schools, and community organizations to make a tangible difference.

This year, one of those service sites included one of our partner churches, King of Kings. Mr. DeBoer's life group had the opportunity to serve at King of Kings' Millard campus, joining their staff for projects, fellowship, and lunch together. What started as a day of service quickly turned into something even more inspiring, a reminder of how deeply connected our Concordia community truly is.

While serving, Mr. DeBoer connected with Josiah Wood ('11), a Concordia graduate who now serves as Sr. Director of Communications at King of Kings. Josiah, who holds a film degree and is experienced in production, photography, and all things tech, also has a close connection to our current community. He's married to Mrs. Wood, one of our own Spanish and religion teachers here at Concordia.

After the group's service time, Josiah invited the students on a behind-the-scenes

ALUMNI CONNECTION INSPIRES SERVICE AND FUTURE COLLABORATION

tour of King of Kings' impressive production spaces. The students saw firsthand how technology, creativity, and faith come together to communicate the gospel in modern and engaging ways.

Reflecting on the experience, Mr. DeBoer shared, "It's exciting for students to see real-life situations of what we do in the controlled classroom environment."

The day didn't end there. Out of that reconnection came exciting plans for future collaboration between Concordia's Media Club and the King of Kings creative team. Students will have opportunities to return, learn, and even work alongside professionals in a real-world ministry setting, combining technical skills with servant leadership and creativity for God's glory.

This story is yet another beautiful example of Christ at work in our community, connecting people, generations, and ministries through shared purpose. Faith in Action Day reminds us that our mission extends far beyond the classroom walls. We are all part of the same body, serving together to make Christ known.

It's exciting for students to see real-life situations of what we do in the controlled classroom environment. *Mr. DeBoer*

IN THE Loop

We prepare
 ✓ Faith Secure
 ✓ World Ready
 ✓ Kingdom Leaders



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13 & 14: High School Musical, The Wizard of Oz

February 21: Elementary Family Game Night

March 6: Kingdom Leaders Gala

March 7: Children's Business Fair

April 18: Jr. - Sr. Prom

May 4: Middle School Honors Assembly

May 5: High School Honors Assembly

May 15: Senior Blessing

May 17: Class of 2026 Graduation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Pastor Dusty White (*Coram Deo*)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Spotlight on FAITH DOERR

WRITING THROUGH THE "STICKY SEASONS"

I recently returned to work from a long week away following the passing of my father. I opened the door of my office to find a mound of Christmas gifts covering my desk. It took me a day to feel ready to open all the gifts waiting to bring me joy, but later that day, with piles of gifts still waiting, Mr. Doerr stopped by my office and handed me two books, unadorned by shiny wrapping and fancy bows. "These are from Faith, she's so great at this kind of thing, thinking about others and knowing what to do. She wants you to have these." Immediately, I knew what they were. The books she had shared in the story of her path to becoming a published author. A journey initiated by a life challenge that led her to her keyboard. Tucked inside was a scrap of paper, and at the bottom of her note, "Jesus Loves you! Faith Doerr."

The quiet way that Faith shares her faith is exactly how she shares her story of being an author. It's simple, serene, and deep, much like her writing. When first-grade teacher Faith Doerr began her blog Imperfectly Perfect Living in January 2018, it was her personal form of therapy — a place to process life's challenges and point back to Jesus. What she didn't know was God's plan for it to grow into a ministry that would touch people beyond her keyboard.

After their daughter Lydia was born, Faith self-published her first journal in 2019. After they welcomed Ezekiel to the family, she released a writing-prompt journal to help others reflect and grow. In 2021, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) invited her to contribute to a collaborative devotional with 51 other Lutheran women, with the book's focus rooted in Psalm 91. This milestone affirmed her voice and a calling outside of the classroom.

2024 brought the Doerrs around to the joyous part of Ecclesiastes 3:4 - a time to dance - as Faith celebrated another significant moment: the publication of her newest book, "God's Encouraging Word," a full book deal through CPH.

For Faith, writing isn't about producing content — it's about pointing people to Scripture.

"During a very difficult season of life, we were given words that were meant to be helpful," she shared, "but what was most encouraging were God's words of comfort and hope. When people are walking through hard seasons, you don't always have to fill the space with empty platitudes. Rather, we can share Scripture and have a ministry of presence because we know, as Christians, that true comfort is not found on this side of Heaven, but in the everlasting promise of Christ Jesus.

Her heart is for those navigating "sticky seasons" — the parts of life no one likes to talk about. Faith believes God uses our unique gifts in different ways, and hers is writing honestly about hardship so others feel less alone and more grounded in Him.

"I enjoy writing and it makes me happy," she said. "God puts things on our hearts, and it's an act of obedience to share it. If this is one way I can lead people to Jesus in a time when faith can be shaken, then I want to do that. Everyone is wired differently, and this is just how my brain works."

Through her classroom, her writing, and her willingness to speak into life's challenges, Faith continues to quietly minister to others — reminding them that God's comforting Word meets us in every season.

We know, as Christians, that true comfort is not found on this side of Heaven, but in the everlasting promise of Christ Jesus. Faith Doerr



Doerr Family

KEN KULUS

BUILDING HOME, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME



Polynomial Dance Party

FOR KEN KULUS, CONCORDIA ISN'T JUST WHERE HE TEACHES AND COACHES—IT'S HOME.

"When you see a place as home," Ken says, "you want it to do well. You want it to be clean, to grow, and to be strong." He connects that sense of responsibility to Scripture—about keeping one's home in order—and it's a mindset that has guided his nearly 14 years at Concordia.

Ken began teaching at Concordia in 2012, and as he marks his 30th year in education, his purpose remains simple and unwavering: every student deserves a quality education. "If a kid walks into my classroom and isn't at least a little bit smarter when they leave," he says, "then I don't think I've done my job." For Ken, teaching math isn't just about formulas and tests—it's about connecting with students and "moving the needle" for each one, helping them see math, and themselves, a little differently.

At Concordia, Ken appreciates the unique challenge of teaching students with a wide range of abilities all in the same classroom. Unlike larger schools with clearly separated honors and remedial tracks, he works to help every student grow. "You're trying to get them all moved along," he explains, "and that matters."

That same sense of care extends beyond the classroom. Whether he's in the building early for athletic workouts or lending a hand with summer projects, Ken values every role that makes Concordia run. He speaks fondly of the maintenance staff, recalling advice from his college professor: the first people you should make friends with are the custodians. "I'm mechanically inclined," Ken says, "and I just like helping out."

While teaching is his foundation, coaching has become another way

Ken has helped shape Concordia's community. After initially stepping away from head coaching, he eventually took over the varsity boys basketball program that had won just three games the previous season. He wasn't sure how long he'd stay. Thirteen years later, the program has grown into something he proudly calls "my baby."

One moment stands above the rest: a district final afternoon game against North Bend. His oldest son was playing, the gym was packed, the student section overflowing. Concordia won, earning the school's first-ever trip to the state tournament. "That was a 'wow' moment," Ken says. "Seeing the community come together around the program—that was awesome."

In the classroom, Ken brings the same energy and creativity. He's known for simplifying complex math concepts into ideas students can truly "get," often using real-world examples instead of textbook language. His goal is long-term understanding—what students will remember two or four years later. Sometimes that means a chant, a joke, or even the infamous "Polynomial Dance Party."

"They might not remember every formula," Ken notes, "but they'll remember how it felt to learn it."

For Ken Kulus, everything circles back to home—creating a place where students feel supported, challenged, and known. And after nearly three decades, his impact continues to grow stronger, one class, one team, and one student at a time.

SETTING THE TONE

HOW MIDDLE SCHOOL HOMEROOM IS SHAPING A FAITH-FUELED COMMUNITY

Each school day at Concordia now begins the same way: gathered in the commons, Middle School students start their morning with prayer, devotion, and purpose. What began this year as a new Middle School Homeroom initiative under first-year Middle School Principal Mr. Preston Doerr has quickly become a defining part of the school's culture—reaching far beyond those first ten minutes of the day.

"Homeroom is the foundation," Mr. Doerr explains. "It's the first thing we do, so it sets the tone for everything that follows." Grounded in Concordia's core values—being deeply rooted in God's Word and living in a faith-fueled community—homeroom begins with prayer and devotion, then moves into conversations about what it looks like to live out those values daily.

Fridays bring a special tradition: Friday Shout-Outs, where students and teachers nominate classmates who are living out Concordia's values through service and character. Thanks to a generous donation of 300 Dairy Queen ice cream coupons, students are celebrated not just with words, but with a tangible reminder that doing good matters.

What no one expected was how naturally the Middle School Homeroom would grow into something even bigger. Just off to the side of the Commons, a group of high school boys sits in study hall—and one morning, they started listening.

"Just sitting here listening...and we decided to join in," shared Parker O. Encouraged by Coach Shep's consistent message to "join in" and serve, the boys felt called to participate. "Coach always tells us to be good men," said Cole H. "He talks about fear—fear of judgment, fear of failure—and how important it is to push past that. Talking to middle school kids matters."

The high school students began leading devotions and prayers, written by Alex E., with each boy taking a part. What surprised them most was the response.

"At first we felt like the kids weren't really listening," Cole admitted. "But once we got going, they were more engaged. They listened."

"They're close to our age," added Tanner D. "They see us as role models."

Being role models is a topic Coach Shep had consistently shared in his messages to his football players. Middle school students attend high school football games, stand on the field, and cheer on the players, watching their every move on and off the field. "Coach Shep told us how much they look up to us—and the football team," said Caden V. "That made it feel important."

For Mr. Doerr, the connection between middle school and high school is exactly the point.

"Middle school is the bridge," he said. "This is where students begin taking ownership—of their education, their faith, their choices." Homeroom reinforces skills like time management, perseverance, organization, and follow-through, while also emphasizing a devotion theme drawn from Colossians 3:1: Living Above the Line.

"Every day, students make choices," Mr. Doerr explained. "They can choose things above the line—serving others—or below the line—serving themselves."

Those lessons are taking root. Middle school students now lead prayer before lunch, help take out trash in the middle school wing, greet others at chapel, and are stepping up in leadership roles across campus. Inspired by the high school boys, some sixth graders have even begun leading devotions for Mrs. Senechal's fourth grade class.

What started as a ten-minute homeroom has become a movement—one that is shaping hearts, strengthening faith, and building a community where students lead students.

As Mr. Doerr puts it, "We're looking for opportunities to serve God by serving others." And every morning, in the Commons, that purpose comes to life.



This is where students begin taking ownership—of their education, their faith, their choices. Mr. Doerr

6th grade students lead devotions in the elementary



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OF THE NEWSLETTER,
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SPORTS FEEDS & MORE
UNDER THE "NEWS AND
UPDATES" TAB!**

CONCORDIAOMAHA.ORG

A PUBLICATION OF CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA FOUNDATION **SPRING 2026**

**2025-2026
SCHOOL THEME**



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- FOUNDATION BOARD**
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FOUNDATION BOARD
Update

One of the great blessings of a Christian school is that its impact is never limited to a single year, class, or even generation. The work taking place at Concordia today will bear fruit far beyond our immediate view in the lives of students, the families they will lead, and the communities they will serve. This enduring perspective is also at the heart of the Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Foundation. Through endowment and legacy gifts, faithful supporters help ensure that Concordia's mission of preparing Faith Secure, World Ready, Kingdom Leaders remains strong not only for today's students, but for generations to come.

Endowment gifts reflect a remarkable kind of stewardship and vision, providing lasting support for a ministry that continues shaping lives year after year. It is a true privilege to serve both Concordia and the Foundation, and I remain deeply grateful for the many individuals and families whose generosity and faithful partnership sustain this important work.

Sarah Harper

FOUNDATION BALANCE

MARCH 2025 BALANCE
\$2,547,051

JUNE 2025 BALANCE
\$2,773,084

SEPTEMBER 2025 BALANCE
\$2,916,245

DECEMBER 2025 BALANCE
\$2,307,794