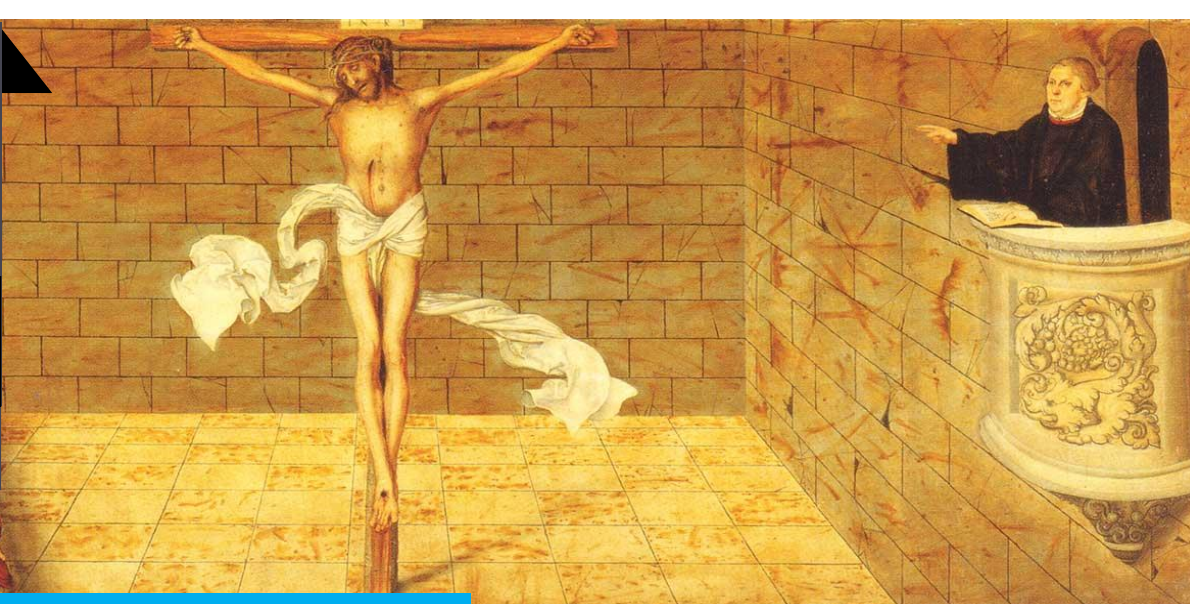




CONCORDIA ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER
December 2020



Progress UPDATE

We've finished our governing policy manual! That might not sound like much, but it turns out that with all the issues we must think about (especially in this day and age), in addition to government regulations, legal requirements, and such, it takes many hours of work and careful consideration to craft such a manual. We will continue to meet monthly to work on our student & parent handbook and staff handbook.

Have you saved the date of April 16, 2021 for our capital campaign kickoff banquet yet? We are certainly looking forward to it! We have already scheduled a few visits to local churches and LWML groups in early 2021 to inform more local Lutherans about the school and invite them to the banquet, and we will continue to keep scheduling more visits as COVID allows. If you'd like us to come to your church and we've not yet scheduled a time to do so, please let us know! Tickets to the banquet will be available early next year.

Upcoming Events

- **April 16, 2021** – Kickoff Fundraising Banquet & Lutheran Lecture Series on Classical Lutheran Education!

What Others Are Saying...

I am delighted that, through the grassroots efforts of numerous very able and dedicated pastors, educators, and lay people in the Wichita area, LCMS Lutherans of the greater Wichita area may soon have the option of a Classical Lutheran education for their children.

Rev. Peter K. Lange,
First Vice-President of the LCMS

Contact us!

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At Concordia Academy our mission is

To form students in faith, hope, and love, by cultivating wisdom and nourishing their souls in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, according to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.”

What is *Lutheran* about Classical Lutheran Education? And, why have a Lutheran High School anyhow?

Well, first of all, this assumes there’s something distinctively Lutheran in the first place. Is it sauerkraut, Jello-salads, or casseroles? Is it sitting in the last pew at church? (Every denomination claims that trait, by the way!) Is it having German ancestry? No, of course not. But is it even a particular way of talking or worshiping, singing or celebrating? What does it mean to be Lutheran?

For this we’re best off looking at what makes us Lutheran: our Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord. A series of documents were compiled in 1580 including the three ancient Creeds (Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian), as well as Luther’s Catechisms, and various Confessions ranging from 1530-1577, all under the title *Concordia*.

Concordia comes from two Latin words meaning “with” and “heart.” That is, these confessions are made with unity of heart because they accord with the truth of God’s word. In the preface to *Concordia* these confessors say:

“In this work of concord, we have not at all wished to create something new or to depart from the truth of the heavenly doctrine, which our ancestors (renowned for their piety) as well as we ourselves, have acknowledged and professed...But, the Spirit of the Lord aiding us, we intend to persevere constantly, with the greatest harmony, in this godly agreement.” (Preface, 23)

To be Lutheran, then—and to uphold the Lutheran confessions, *Concordia*—is to say nothing new: no new doctrine, no new practice, no new customs or ceremonies. “*We have mentioned only those things we thought it was necessary to talk about so that it would be understood that in doctrine and ceremonies we have received nothing contrary to Scripture or the Church universal.*” (Augsburg Confession, Conclusion, 5)

This presents a bit of a problem: if the Lutheran Confessions make us Lutheran; and the Lutheran Confessions claim to say and do nothing new; then what does it mean to be Lutheran?

Again, our Confessions give us our answer, ordering our faith under the word:

“We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with all teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17) are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone.”

(Formula of Concord, Epitome, Summary, 1)

To be Lutheran is to have the Scriptures alone as “*judge, rule, and norm;*” and to have the writings of the Fathers, the Reformers, and Saints of all times and places as testimonies to and declarations of the faith given in the Scriptures.

Our belief, teaching, and confession at Concordia Academy will follow this lead. The Scriptures are our “*only true standard and norm by which all teachers and doctrines are to be judged*” (Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Summary, 2). After the Scriptures—and judged by them—come the Creeds and Confessions of the early Church, then *Concordia*. Then come the testimonies of various Councils and theologians, including the Lutheran Confessors and even today’s theologians.

What we teach, preach, and confess at Concordia Academy is nothing new—in fact, it’s very old! Our students will learn that “*the faith once delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3) is defended and confessed in all times and all places and finds a great heritage of confessors throughout the history of the Church. We seek to uphold that history and tradition all because it accords with the Word of God. So it goes also for our worship. The prayers we pray, the hymns we sing, the colors, chants, vestments, and adornments to the Sanctuary—they all stand in this great heritage passed down from one generation of the faithful to the next. We’ll uphold this largely through our daily rhythm of Matins and Vespers, the daily rhythm of prayer that the Church has observed from her earliest days.

So what is Lutheran about Classical Lutheran Education? It’s first and foremost being rightly ordered under the Word. There’s great need for a Lutheran school as such. We long for our children to be rightly ordered under the Word in faith towards God and in love towards our neighbor. We need pastors and teachers, not to mention faithful mothers and fathers, engineers, electricians, and policemen. Whatever vocation our Lord calls us to, *Concordia Academy* seeks to prepare our children with this rich heritage of life under the Word, even if, in the end, it means saying nothing new.

Find out more about these Lutheran Confessions, *Concordia*, by getting yourself a copy [here](#). You’ll also find loads of helpful information about the Book of Concord—its texts and history—at www.bookofconcord.org. And, of course, you can always support us over at www.concordiaacademywichita.org.

