



A BOLD STEP

**A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

DEVOTION 1: A STEP OF FAITH

BY PASTOR CHAD HOOVER, CLHS CAMPUS PASTOR

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

Every high school across the nation has teachers, administrators, office workers, staff members, and students gathering together throughout the school year to meet the educational goals of the institution. Concordia Lutheran High School is no different. One could argue that Concordia’s academic programs, co-curricular activities, and extra-curricular opportunities for students are top notch, and I wouldn’t disagree.

No matter how greatly Concordia Lutheran High School excels in these areas; however, we would fall short of our mission to pursue “Christ-centered educational excellence that equips individuals for lifelong learning and service as disciples of Jesus Christ” if we lost focus of who we are in Christ. “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36).

As an extension of the ministry of the Church, Concordia Lutheran High School is Gospel-focused, which means...

- We recognize that all of us within this community (teachers, administrators, office workers, staff members, and students—all of us) are sinful human beings who have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- We preach Christ-crucified! (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). No one gains salvation by keeping the law and making themselves righteous; our sin is too great. We need a Savior.
- God has provided that Savior for us. He was crucified for us and conquered sin and death for us through His resurrection. Now, the righteousness that we need to be acceptable to God has been given to us through Christ, who covers our sin and gives us a righteousness that is not our own (Philippians 3:8-12).

With this Gospel message, our school is unique in the Fort Wayne area. We recognize that every individual within our community (every teacher, every administrator, every office worker, every staff member, and every student) is precious in the eyes of God and therefore should be treated with dignity and respect. We don’t overlook and ignore sin. Though imperfectly, we confess it and forgive one another as Christ has forgiven each and every one of us.

The impact of the Gospel goes beyond the walls of our building. Our mission is for our students to eagerly cultivate their God-given gifts and talents as they continue serving others in the name of Christ throughout their lives.

REFLECT

- How have you witnessed or experienced Concordia’s Gospel-focused mission?
- Why is Concordia’s mission so needed in our world today?

PRAYER

Gracious Heavenly Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have provided great blessings for your Church. Through Him, we’ve received the forgiveness of sins and the promise of life everlasting in your kingdom. Continue to send your Holy Spirit to lead and guide the teachers, administrators, office workers, staff members, and students at Concordia Lutheran High School to receive these gifts with thanksgiving and serve others in His Name. Amen.

DEVOTION 2: A STEP OF COURAGE

BY MATT KONOW, CLHS CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

“But Jesus immediately said to them, ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’”

MATTHEW 14:27

I remember vividly as a small four-year old boy my first taste of fear jumping into water. Going to the swimming pool at Centlivre apartments, I was standing on the edge of the shallow end with my knees shaking. I begged my father to not leave the safe, solid concrete and leap the entire 12 inches to his strong, capable arms. My focus was on the gulf of water one foot between my father and I. What my brain couldn’t take hold of was my dad waiting patiently to catch me.

Fear has a way of holding you back when something important is about to happen. The disciples had just witnessed a miracle—the feeding of the five thousand—and now they found themselves in a storm, rowing against the wind in the middle of the night. When they saw Jesus walking on the water, their first reaction wasn’t awe—it was fear.

Notice that Jesus didn’t say, “Don’t be afraid.” He begins with, “Take courage!” In other words, wrestle through your fear, focus on me, and grab hold with both hands. Courage isn’t something we wait to feel—it is something we CHOOSE to take up.

As a school community, we are choosing to take a bold step—not one of obligation, but one of courage. Courage to focus on our Heavenly Father’s plan for the future of our high school. Courage to give courageously when we might be tempted to hold back. Courageous giving proclaims, “God’s work is more important than my comfort.”

Just like the disciples, Jesus is in the storm with us. His presence through this campaign and beyond is where we find our courage. We aren’t alone; He walks with us in this bold step.

REFLECT

- What fears might be holding you back from taking a bold step with us?
- How will Christ’s presence strengthen your courage?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the many blessings you shower upon us daily. Please forgive our sins; especially when our fear shifts our focus away from you. Help us to take courage—not from ourselves, but from your nearness. In our giving, our serving, and our following; may we choose courage over our own comfort. Lead our community in this bold step, and let this campaign be a witness to your faithfulness. Amen.

DEVOTION 3: A STEP OF COMMITMENT

BY JACOB PENNEKAMP, CLHS HEAD OF SCHOOL

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

**“Come,” He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat,
walked on the water and came toward Jesus.**

MATTHEW 14:28-29

When Peter stepped out of the boat, he wasn’t acting out of the impulsive boldness he’s often known for. This time, he was responding in obedience to a single word from Jesus: “Come.”

A commitment to obey can be that simple. It may not always make sense. It may not always feel comfortable. But obedience begins with listening—and continues by trusting the One who calls.

Stewardship is a form of that commitment. It means taking God’s Word seriously when it says, “Honor the Lord with your wealth” (Proverbs 3:9) and “Give, and it will be given to you” (Luke 6:38). It means choosing to respond—not out of guilt or obligation, but from a willing heart—simply because God has asked and is worthy of our trust.

In my own life, I’ve faced moments when I sensed God calling me to take a bold step outside of my comfort zone. Looking back, I can clearly see how He sustained me and provided in ways I never expected. Hebrews 13:5 reminds us of God’s promise: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” God is faithful. So why wouldn’t I be committed to following His Word?

Jesus used Peter’s water-walking moment to shape a faith that would sustain him in the days ahead—as the rock on which Christ would build His Church (Matthew 16:18). That miraculous walk with Jesus prepared Peter to lead the early Church. How might God be using this moment to strengthen and grow your faith?

This campaign is an opportunity for each of us to take a step of commitment. To listen for the Spirit’s prompting. To follow through with what we’ve heard. Like Peter, we may not fully understand the journey with the first step—but we trust the One who calls us. And as we walk forward in faith, our steps encourage others to do the same.

REFLECT

- How in your past have you seen God’s faithfulness, even in challenging times?
- Is there a step of commitment God is asking you to take today?

PRAYER

Lord, we want to be faithful followers. Help us to hear Your voice clearly and respond with willing hearts. Teach us to obey, even when it challenges us, and to trust that Your ways are always good. Use our humble response to further Your Kingdom and bless our school community. Amen.

DEVOTION 4: A STEP OF HOPE

BY JACOB PENNEKAMP, CLHS HEAD OF SCHOOL

**“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us.”**

EPHESIANS 3:20

When Peter looked at Jesus, he saw a vision of something that had never been done before. No one had ever walked on water. No one had defied nature like that—except the Son of God. But Peter dared to hope that with Jesus, he could too.

This hope was not a wish. It was a firm conviction—a trust that God would fulfill His promises.

Stewardship begins with hope. Not just with what is, but with what could be. Not just the needs of today, but the legacy of tomorrow. Hope allows us to look beyond the storm—to see students growing in faith, to imagine classrooms filled with Christ-centered learning, to picture generations shaped by the mission of our school.

It must have been a vision like this that inspired the founders of our high school. They, too, sacrificed personally and gave generously, convinced that a Lutheran high school would produce generations of Christian citizens and leaders. And we are the fruit of their hope.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians that God can do more than we ask or imagine. But he also adds something powerful: His power is at work within us. That means we get to participate in the work God is already doing. Our giving, our involvement, our bold steps of faith—God uses them to build something greater than we could hope for on our own.

This campaign is about more than bricks and mortar. It’s about a firm conviction—a hope—in what God is doing, and a boldness to imagine what He might do through us. Our gifts today can lay the foundation for tomorrow’s testimonies of faith.

REFLECT

- What hope has God placed on your heart for the future of our school?
- How can your giving be a way of investing in the legacy of that hope?

PRAYER

Lord, You are the provider of vision and the anchor of our hope. Help us to see beyond what is, and to imagine what could be through Your power at work in us. Inspire us to give boldly and believe deeply, that our offerings today may help shape lives for generations to come. Amen.

DEVOTION 5: A STEP OF SACRIFICE

BY MATT KONOW, CLHS CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciples.”

LUKE 14:27

It has been my experience in my military, corporate, and non-profit career there is nothing more galvanizing to a team or community's culture than shared purpose and the trust that needs to go with it.

That shared experience could be traumatic like Boot Camp, or energizing like commissioned bonuses. The question that ties them together is, “How far am I willing to trust my teammate to advance the mission?” That decision is never an easy one to make.

Jesus never promised following Him would be easy. He knew the sacrifice that would be required for our salvation and was willing to pay it. The path of sacrifice requires committing to something greater than yourself; a shared purpose to advance the mission.

When Peter boldly stepped out of the boat, he not only left the safety of the boat he also let go of what the other disciples thought and also control of what happened next. He decided to test how far he was willing to go and trust in Jesus.

Sacrificial stewardship means giving what is meaningful, asking ourselves how far are we willing to go to advance the mission? This campaign is not about equal gifts—it is about equal sacrifice. What are we willing to sacrifice for the next generation of Christian leaders? How far am I willing to go for my grandchildren? For my grandchildren's grandchildren?

What the world perceives as painful giving for Christians is joyous sacrifice for what has been done for us. The sacrificial gift made in love stretches our faith and transforms our hearts. How much can you sacrifice now for the future of our high school?

REFLECT

- How much am I willing to sacrifice for this campaign?
- How does my sacrifice reflect the sacrifices made for me?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you provide us and the sacrifice your dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, provided for our sins. Teach us to follow in your footsteps with hearts willing to sacrifice our earthly comfort to advance your mission. Let our present sacrifices bless the future generations of Cadets educated at your high school. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

DEVOTION 6: A STEP OF WORSHIP

BY JACOB PENNEKAMP, CLHS HEAD OF SCHOOL

“Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”

MATTHEW 14:33

After the wind died down, after Peter was back in the boat, after the fear had passed—something beautiful happened. The disciples worshiped. They confessed, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Worship is the right response to encountering Jesus. But even more, worship begins with Jesus encountering us. He comes to us in our storms, speaks peace to our fears, and reveals Himself as Lord. In worship, this rhythm is clear: God gives—and we respond. He serves—and we receive, praise, and follow.

In this story, the disciples were caught up in the presence of the Son of God and responded in worship. Their praise flowed from awe, from trust, from hearts overwhelmed by who Jesus is and what He had done for them.

In our own lives, worship is not confined to hymns or sanctuary walls. We also worship in how we live, serve, and give. When we respond to God’s grace with faithful generosity, that too is an act of worship—an offering born of gratitude.

I’m excited to participate generously in this campaign as a response to what God has done for me and my family. Concordia Lutheran High School is where my faith was nurtured during my formative years. It’s where I met lifelong friends, mentors—and even my wife. That same Christ-centered education has been a blessing to my children, and in hope, I pray it will be for my grandchildren as well.

As our campaign moves forward, we step into a time of joyful response—not because the journey is finished, but because God has been faithful. He has spoken into the storm, called us to take bold steps, and worked through the hands and hearts of His people.

Your faith, your generosity, your prayers—they are all part of this worship, because they flow from the grace we’ve already received in Christ. Together, we lift up the name of Jesus—Lord of this school, this mission, and this moment.

REFLECT

- How can your giving become a joyful act of worship?

PRAYER

Jesus, You are the Son of God. You speak peace into our storms, and You call us to trust in You. Receive our worship—not only in song, but in every gift, every prayer, every bold step we take in faith. May all we do give glory to Your name and bless this school for generations to come. Amen.

DEVOTION 7: A STEP OF RESPONSE

BY JACOB PENNEKAMP, CLHS HEAD OF SCHOOL

“We love because He first loved us.”

1 JOHN 4:19

The story of Peter walking on water ends with worship—but it also calls for response. Everything we do as believers flows from what Christ has already done for us. We don’t give to earn His favor—we give because we already have it. We don’t love to be loved—we love because He first loved us.

This campaign—our bold step—is ultimately a response to the Gospel. Because Christ first loved us, we can love others. Because He first gave, we can be generous. Because He first called us, we can follow.

Matt and I, like so many of you, are CLHS graduates and deeply committed to being faithful stewards of the blessings this high school has provided. Through the Christ-centered education we received in these hallways, we were equipped to become champions for Concordia and for the generations of students yet to come. To best serve both our current and future students, now is the time to invest in our campus.

We see clear signs that God is calling us to action and we are trusting in His miraculous provision. We serve a God of abundance, and He’s equipped each of us with gifts to share. Perhaps you’ll be led to make a financial contribution. Maybe you’ll help share the story and encourage others to participate. I hope each of us will hold our students, faculty, and leadership in faithful, consistent prayer.

Stewardship, at its core, is not about obligation. It’s about identity. It’s about living as God’s redeemed people—reflecting Jesus in how we give, serve, and build for the future. And right now, we’re being invited to do just that.

This is your moment to respond. Not because you must—but because you can. Because Christ gave everything for you, and now you have the opportunity to give boldly for the sake of others.

As you consider your part in this campaign, prayerfully ask:

What bold step is Christ calling me to take in response to His love?

May your giving be a joyful response to the One who gave everything. May your bold step be rooted in grace, motivated by love, and marked by deep gratitude.

Because Christ first...we can.

PRAYER

Jesus, You are our beginning and our end. Everything we do flows from Your love. Help us respond with open hands, grateful hearts, and bold steps. Let our giving reflect Your generosity, and may our response bring You glory. Amen.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

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