



# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA  
Superior, WI      December 2018    Vol 37 No. 12

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

## *From the Pastor:*

Peace on earth was spoken by the host of angels when the birth of Jesus had been announced by one to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night in the hills overlooking the town of Bethlehem. As we traveled back from a short vacation recently, Christmas songs were playing on the radio, but some did not really seem to be Christmas songs. One was “Let There Be Peace on Earth (and Let It Begin with Me).” This particular one was performed by Vince Gill and his daughter, and it was from his 1993 Christmas album of the same title. It is also apparently the final song included with the “IllumiNations” fireworks show at Epcot Center in the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida every year during the holidays. It works very well as a Christmas song, since the angel did indeed announce peace... but it was not written as a Christmas song, and is used year-round for many purposes—and that is as it should be.

Jill Jackson-Miller wrote the lyrics in 1955 according to an article in Wikipedia. That article reports that she had been suicidal after the failure of a marriage, and that she claims to have written those lyrics after discovering the life-saving joy of God’s peace and unconditional love. This song of peace was presented first at a retreat for youth high in the mountains of California. It was not a holiday celebration, but an attempt to bring together people who did not automatically gather with one another. They were teenagers selected from their schools for the week-long event from different racial, cultural, and

economic backgrounds, brought together to experiment with creating understanding and friendship through education, discussion groups, and living and working together in a camp situation. (From “A Brief History of “Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me”, Jan-Lee Music)

The song traveled home with the teens and was shared with their families, schools, churches, and clubs. It has by now flown around the world, and is used by peoples of various nations, cultures, and faiths. Lyrics are sometimes altered to reflect differing needs, but the whole retains the longing for peace on earth, without the greed for power so prevalent in our world.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and laid to rest in a manger (a feeding trough for the animals), shepherds watching over their flocks in the nearby fields were encountered by an angel of the Lord. This angel was surrounded by God’s glory, shining, and understandably the shepherds were terrified. The angel reassured them, however, saying, “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly there was with the angel many more... all of whom were praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, good will to people. (This and the previous paragraph come from



Luke 2, various translations.)

How is peace obtained? Is it a magical occurrence since Christ has come? Or, might Jesus Christ be the inspiration and the possibility for the people to work for peace, especially when peace seems unobtainable, when hope seems to die—on a cross in Jerusalem?

It was 1988 when Michael Jackson’s “Man in the Mirror” was released as a single. He did not write the song, but added his personal commitment with the lines: I’m starting with the man in the mirror. I’m asking him to change his ways. And no message could have been any clearer: If you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make a change.

The birth of Jesus brings hope and promises peace. His death and resurrection brings forgiveness—that we may rise again after every failure, and strive again for peace on earth. Let there be peace on earth, in Jesus’ name. Amen



## Parish Nursing Notes.....

All of a sudden, we're in the middle of the holiday season. There is snow on the ground, below freezing temperatures, and Christmas decorations up all over. People are making plans for Christmas, trying to think of the perfect gift for all those on their list. But what we have to remember is written in James 1:17, and I like the Kid's Study Bible version best. "Every good and perfect gift is from God. It comes down from the Father."

And that reminds me of an essay my 12 year old great-niece wrote for school. They were asked to write about what they wanted to do when they grew up. She wrote that she always wanted to be a princess at Disney World, but had recently changed her mind. She didn't want to be that far away from her family, cousins, and other relatives

who all live in the mid-west. What she liked best were the twice yearly get-togethers with everyone — at Christmas, and the summer camping trip. At Christmas we all get together at our house. And the kids enjoy sledding together, sitting in front of the wood stove, working together to fill our wood rack, and planning a play to perform in front of the grownups. In summer, we all get together on a camping trip which includes a group hike, bonfires, and another play to perform for us. In between, they make phone calls, send letters, and post occasional photos on face book. Family is a wonderful example of "a good and perfect gift from God." And I am so glad she realizes that. Both my sisters and I had tears on our cheeks when her mother let us read it! She ended the essay by saying she hoped that her children would enjoy similar experiences, and that she would be able to look down from heaven and see her grandchildren and great-grandchildren enjoying them, and each other, as well. That essay was "a perfect gift" for us!

As the holidays approach, we have to pause and remember what we should really be celebrating: the gift of God's

Son. Advent is a time for hope, joy, love, and family—not mounds of gifts and copious amounts of food. Consider what has real meaning for you. Is it the family gathering with all the shared and cherished memories, singing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve (with tears streaming down my face), watching the face of a young child as they gaze in wonder at the lit Christmas tree, or hugging the friend from far away who has returned home for Christmas? After everyone else has gone to bed, my sisters and I often stay up, talking and sharing memories. Very often a certain word or glance will send us into gales of laughter, leaving the others wondering about our sanity. The decorations do not matter at all, except for the memories they stir up.

"And we have received God's Spirit so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us." 1 Corinthians 2:12.

This holiday season, remember the spirit of Christmas, share your presence with others, reduce your stress, and create meaningful traditions that demonstrate God's love..... Jean



### Library Happenings

Greetings from the Library Team! We, as believers and followers of Christ, will soon begin our Advent journey, which brings us to Christmas,

a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. As the preparations and festivities of the season occupy our time, let us take a moment (or more!) to focus our thoughts and priorities on the “true” meaning of Christmas.

We invite you to visit the library during the Advent Season to look over our collection of books pertaining to Advent and Christmas.

Subjects range from Devotional/Meditative to light fiction and appeal to readers of every age. These books will be on display throughout the library, so please stop by to see if any are of interest to you.

Wishing you a Meaningful and Blessed Christmas!

Keep On Reading!

See YOU in the library!

**CONCORDIA'S ORGAN FUNDRAISER**

Organ Fund: \$9,936 of \$36,000 raised  
as of November 26, 2018  
Your donations are greatly appreciated

### **Benevolence Committee Meeting**

**Next meeting will be**

**December 9 at 11:00 a.m.**



**Community Advent Service  
At Concordia Lutheran Church  
December 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

### Altar Flowers for December

**December 2**

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Christ Lien & Margaret Lien by Ruby Lien

**December 9**

In Memory of Fred & Carrie Jackson & William Hansen by Donna M. Hansen

**December 16**

In Memory of Ralph & Shirley Nelson by Ann Novack

**December 23**

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

**December 30**

In Honor of Kristofor Hanson's Birthday by Karla Hanson

***The following memorials are  
acknowledged by the church office:***

**In Memory of:**

**Given by:**

James Swenson

Herbert & Ann Lewis

Richard Riedasch

Arlene Jacobson

Duane Anderson

Arlene Jacobson

If you sent a memorial and were not included

on the list, please contact the church office





**Poinsettias** will be purchased by the Altar Guild to decorate the chancel for Christmas. If you wish to memorialize or honor a loved one, you may make a donation in any amount to the Altar Guild Poinsettia Fund. A list of those memorialized or honored will be in the Christmas bulletin.

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Checks payable to Altar Guild Flower Fund and are due by December 16)*



Michael Beeksma,  
Robert Bentley,  
Gerald Carlson,  
Linda Eliason,  
Richard Erickson,  
Erin Frank,  
Anne Gronski,  
Audrey Hagen,  
Kristofor Hanson,  
Robert Hering,  
Nathan Hoff,  
Jack James,  
Brandon Jardine,  
Alexandra Ledin,  
Wesley Ledin,  
Jan Lippitt,  
Aaron Moncel,  
Andria Nelson,  
Ryan Nelson,  
Amanda Norbie,  
Michael Olson,  
James Pappas,  
Adam Peterson,  
Darren Porter,  
Susan Quam,  
Eric Quam,  
Courtney Quam,  
Scott Rosenbaum,  
Gayle Rosenbaum,  
Shawn Roske,  
Steve Runquist,  
Donald Setterstrom,  
Charles Sorenson,  
Carol Stahl,  
Holly Staupe,  
Gracelyn Stenstrom,  
Lloyd Ullan,  
Betty Ursin,  
Lori Van,  
Judy Weber

**The DEADLINE for January articles in  
"The Concordian"**

**AND THE ANNUAL REPORT**

**is December 17.**

Announcements are due by 9:00 am  
December 20.

**Thanks for marking this on your  
calendar!**



**Lessons and Carols**

**Epiphany Sunday January 6**

**Readers and singers welcome and needed.**

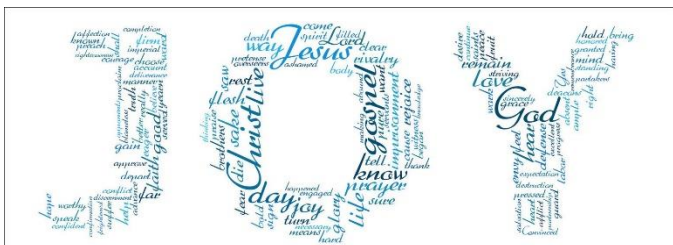
**Please contact church office to sign up.**

**715-394-3762**

**This year's Advent Tea is on December 2.**

Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share at the Advent Tea Luncheon. Cookies should be delivered to the Church on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> or by 9 am Sunday, December 2nd.





# Share the Joy

As we begin a new church year this December, we would like to encourage everyone who lives within a reasonable driving distance to make a new commitment to worship regularly with the congregation. Doing so will give encouragement to everyone who is here, possibly help us grow in our ministry, and help us at Concordia have the resources to reach out in helpful ways for our congregation and the community. Let us share in the joy gifted to this world in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!**

## **MEN'S & LADIES' NIGHTS OUT**

**December 12**

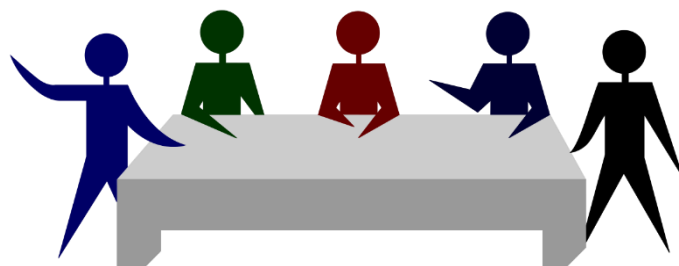
**Ladies and Men will meet at Dreamland Supper Club. Please contact the church office to make reservations or sign up on the sheet posted on our bulletin board**

**We plan to take the bus!**

**Subject to Cancellation if not enough people signed up.**

## **Scrip Order!**

We will be placing a Scrip order two weeks before Christmas in order to make sure all orders arrive on time. If you would like to order any Scrip cards, please have your order to the office by  
**Sunday, December 9.**



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

President, John Gronski	218.340.1813
Vice President, Gary Banker	715.392.2149
Secretary, Carol Lindegren	218.590.8238
Nancy Burley	218.464.7086
Matthew Eastman	218.409.9174
Jan Lippitt	715.394.9158
Nick Pristash	715.398.0488
Shawn Quist	218.343.6795
Eric Sewall	715.392.1559

### **Community Benevolence**

John Gronski  
Gary Banker  
Jan Lippitt

### **Investment Committee**

Gary Banker

### **Finance**

Carol Lindegren

### **Personnel**

Shawn Quist  
Nancy Burley  
John Gronski

### **Evangelism**

Gary Banker

### **Youth and Family**

Nick Pristash  
Carol Lindegren

### **Worship and Music**

Nancy Burley  
Matthew Eastman  
Eric Sewall  
Gary Banker

### **Property Management**

Matthew Eastman  
Shawn Quist

### **Stewardship**

(inactive, full council)

## Serving in December

### **Ushers**

December 4	Team II
December 9	Team I
December 16	Team I
December 23	Team III
December 24	Team I
December 25	Team II
December 30	Team III

### **Bus Driver**

December 2	Ken Harmer
December 9	Pete Quist
December 16	Brett Quist
December 23	Kris Hanson
December 24	Ken Harmer
December 25	Brett Quist
December 30	Pete Quist

### **Scripture Readers**

December 2	Richard Wnek
December 9	Ed Lindegren
December 16	Mark Thompson
December 23	Bear Rowell
December 24	Theresa Clemmer
December 25	Theresa Clemmer
December 30	Nancy O'Neill

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*Happy Anniversary*



### **Altar Servers**

December 2	Joy Moncel
December 9	Altar Guild
December 16	Altar Guild
December 23	Altar Guild
December 24	Altar Guild
December 25	Altar Guild
December 30	Altar Guild

### **Coffee Kiosk Servers**

December 2	John Gronski
December 9	Nick Pristash
December 16	Carol Lindegren
December 23	Nancy Burley
December 24	Eric Sewall
December 25	Shawn Quist
December 30	Jan Lippitt

### **Financial Assistants**

Marie Strom & Jean Stensland

### **Communion Assistants**

December 2	David Sloan & Gary Banker
December 9	Dennis & Linda Aho
December 24	Ken & Deb Harmer
December 25	Shawn Quist & Lori Sewall

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*William and Carol Lindstrom*  
*Gregory and Sandy Mattson*  
*Kristofor and Marcie Hanson*  
*David and Jean Runquist*

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 10:00 Confirmation Class
<b>2</b> 9:00 Blood Pressure Checks 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/Communion 11:00 Advent Tea	<b>3</b> 2:00 Violin Teaching Studio 6:00 Troop Committee Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>4</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg  4:00 Just for Kix 6:00 Violin Teaching Studio	<b>5</b> 11:00 Text Study   3:45 Confirmation Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> (Office closed)	<b>8</b> 10:00 Confirmation Class
<b>9</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service w/Communion 6:30 Joint Lutheran Advent Service at Concordia	<b>10</b> 2:00 Violin Teaching Studio 6:00 Property Management Committee 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>11</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 4:00 Just for Kix 6:00 Violin Teaching Studio	<b>12</b> 11:00 Text Study 3:45 Confirmation Class 5:30 Everyone Night Out at Dreamland Supper Club (subject to cancellation if too few people)	<b>13</b> 2:00 Superior Rehab Worship  4:00 Just for Kix	<b>14</b> (Office closed)	<b>15</b> 10:00 Confirmation Class
<b>16</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service w/Sunday School Program	<b>17</b> January Newsletter &Annual Report Articles Due 6:00 Worship & Music	<b>18</b> 9:00 Staff Mtg 11:30 Ministerium 4:00 Just for Kix 6:00 Violin Teaching Studio	<b>19</b> 11:00 Text Study 3:45 Confirmation Class 7:00 Superior Singers Concert	<b>20</b>   6:00 Council Meeting	<b>21</b> (Office closed)	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:00Worship Service	<b>24</b>   4:00 Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> 10:00 Christmas Service 2:00 Baptismal Service 	<b>26</b>   Pastor Michelle on vacation	<b>27</b> 9:00 Concordian Helpers  Pastor on vacation	<b>28</b> (Office Closed)  Pastor on vacation	<b>29</b>   Pastor on vacation
<b>30</b> 10:00 Worship Service  Pastor on vacation	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve  Pastor on vacation					

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1708 John Ave.  
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***The Concordian is published monthly since 1981 by:***

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Synod website: [www.nswi.org](http://www.nswi.org)  
ELCA website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
Luther Point Bible Camp website: [www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org)  
Resource Center website: [www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org)

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Theresa Clemmer, Financial Secretary  
Jean Riedasch, Parish Nurse  
Matthew Eastman, Custodian & Technologies  
*Editor:* Theresa Clemmer  
*Contributors:* Many  
*Assembly/mailling:* Our faithful volunteers

# The Concordian

December

Vol. 37 No. 12

A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church  
Superior, Wisconsin  
715.394.3762

[www.concordiasuperior.org](http://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

**9:00 Sunday School/10:00 am Worship**

Communion served on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays.  
Fellowship (coffee & goodies) in the church library  
after the worship service (when scheduled).

## 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.