



# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA  
Superior, WI      March 2020      Vol 39 No. 3

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

## *From the Pastor:*

The entire month of March is within the season of Lent this year. This actually happens about half the time, with variations occurring when Ash Wednesday can be as late as March 10, and Easter can be as early as March 22.

Lent is traditionally a season of penitence, and many Christians have a practice of giving something up for the season, as a way to remember all that God has done for us, and to show some kind of appreciation for God’s sacrifice for us.

Our Lenten series this year is patterned around discipleship. On March 4 we will hear from Pastor Will Mowchan from Pilgrim on **Prayer**. March 11 will bring Pastor Sean Koos from Our Savior’s preaching on **Generosity**. I will be here on March 18 with the focus of **Witness**. Pastor Bridget Jones from Bethel will address **Study** (in the Word) on March 25, and Pastor Victor St. George from Zion will preach on (Fellowship and) **Service** on April 1. All of these are considered to be marks of discipleship. Some might look to these marks as evidence that we actually are followers of Jesus Christ.

Lately, there has been much controversy among various people who pattern their lives in ways they believe “the best way” to follow Jesus Christ.

A simple example of this is a practice that some churches have of “burying the alleluia” during the season of Lent. It is believed that the practice emphasizes the somber tone of the season, and seems to increase the joy of the worshipers when the alleluias burst forth again on Easter Sunday. Others will continue to speak or sing this word of praise throughout the season, declaring that Sundays are always an observations of the resurrection, and not actually counted within the forty days of Lent. Is there ever really a time that we ought not to praise God?

Other examples are not so simple. Years ago, I had someone come to me to reveal plans to separate from spouse and children in order to enter into a different relationship. “You have to forgive me, Pastor,” were the words spoken to me. The problem lay in that this person was not really asking for forgiveness, but instead for permission. I could not grant that permission. My heart broke for the family. My heart still aches for them—even the one who did indeed file for divorce and then marry the other person.

All can be forgiven. This is true. However, this often places the emphasis solely on ourselves, on our own relationship with God. I believe God’s desire is larger



than that.

I believe God is concerned more with our relationship with others than our confidence in ourselves.

Maybe each one of us can pick one of the marks of discipleship and practice this mark during this season with a focus on someone outside ourselves. We might **pray** for someone else each day, or be **generous** to others. We might witness, or pay attention to the **witness** of someone who differs from us. Maybe we can **study** how God speaks to others, or support ways to **serve** that we have generally overlooked. Some might concentrate on a different mark each week.

I believe God speaks to us, even when we fail to listen. Let us use this season to practice listening, and responding, as Jesus calls us to be disciples.

*. Pastor Michelle*



## Parish Nursing

### Notes.....

As I'm writing this in the middle of February, we seem to be hearing almost as much about the "coronavirus" epidemic as the upcoming election. They have not come up with a vaccine to prevent it as yet, but if we follow all the same precautions as we do for the flu (I hope we all follow them!), they will help prevent the new virus as well.

The best prevention is given to us in the Bible: **"So wash your hands. Make yourselves clean. Get your evil actions out of my sight! Stop doing what is wrong! Learn to do what is right!"** (Isaiah 1:16 Kid's Study Bible). Wash your hands often, and REALLY wash them! Use lots of warm water and soap, and rub for as long as it takes to sing (to yourself!) "Jesus Loves Me", or "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. And be wary of the likelihood of germs and viruses on items that are commonly touched by other people—things like computer keys, cellphones, hand railings, light switches, doorknobs, etc. And clean those items in your home with a disinfecting cleaner frequently. Avoid shaking hands with others, cover your mouth and nose with a

tissue when you cough or sneeze and discard it in the trash immediately. And avoid large crowds where you are most likely to be exposed to the virus. When sharing the peace on Sunday mornings, be aware that not all will want to shake hands. You can put a hand on the shoulder of others, or just give a big smile.

And if you have not yet received a yearly flu shot, you can still get one. The flu season usually lasts from October through May, and it takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop. So you still have time to benefit from it.

If you have flu symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue) stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care. It is one thing we do not want to share with others! And treat your symptoms by drinking plenty of fluids. Tea and chicken soup are old remedies, but they really help! Get plenty of rest, gargle to moisten a sore throat, and take a steamy shower to clear nasal passages. And if you are healthy, one thing you CAN share is Jesus' love-- by taking the sick one the standard chicken soup or other fluids, and caring for their children, or running errands for them. Keep in mind that even one minute of anger can weaken the immune system for 4-6 hours, one minute of laughter boosts the immune system for 24 hours! And giving to others and sharing lead to light hearts and more laughter!

Proverbs 24:12 warns us, *"Don't excuse yourself by saying, 'Look, we didn't know'.....He will repay all people as their actions deserve."* And Ephesians 5:15-16 tells us, *"Be*

*careful then, how you live – not as unwise, but as wise...."* So stay healthy, happy, wise and careful—and help others to do the same.....Jean



## Library News

The library team is looking forward to the start of the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday being on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. The library will feature throughout the Lenten season, books and other materials that may help make your Lenten journey a meaningful one. We hope that this results in a closer relationship and love for and with our Lord and Saviour. May you richly be blessed on your Lenten journey!

See you in the library!





Easter Lilies

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

In memory (deceased) of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor (living) of: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Checks payable to Altar Guild Flower Fund and are due by April 5<sup>th</sup>)*

The Altar guild appreciates everyone's donations to the flower fund throughout the year whether you contribute to lilies, poinsettias or the weekly Altar flowers in honor or memorium.

Altar flowers in the first quarter were:

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In memory of:</u>
Dottie Anderson	Joseph Anderson
Richard Wnek & family	Ethel Wnek
Jeanne Downs	William Downs Jr & Billy Downs IV
Ann Novack	Tony Novack & Rick Nelson
Frances Anunti	John Anunti
Debra Anunti Bovey	
John Anunti	
Mike & Joyce Olson	Loved Ones
Grimstad Family	Roy & Jeane Grimstad
Gary & Carol Banker	Roger & Margaret Erickson
Linda & Dennis Aho	Loved Ones
Arlene Jacobson	
Robert & Traci Strauch	Loved Ones



Boe Engebretson Scholarship

Scholarship applications are now available in the church office. Requirements include:

A brief statement of faith

Declare membership and baptism at Concordia

Contribute 8 hours of volunteer service to the church  
Deadline for application is April 1



Plans are under way to hold our annual spring Rummage Sale. The ladies of the church have already had two workdays to start the "organizing" process for the sale.

What do you have in your basement, garage or spare room that is just taking up space and collecting dust? You are welcome to drop off your items anytime, if you will need help just call the church office at 715-394-3762

**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
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Superior, WI 54880

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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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*Contributors:* Many  
*Assembly/mailing:* Our faithful volunteers

# The Concordian

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## **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.