



# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI

May 2020

Vol 39 No. 5

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

## From the Pastor:

### “How long, O God?”

A meme was shared by a few people last month that says this has been the strangest leap year ever. February had 29 days, March had three hundred, and April will last for five years!

At this point, I am unaware of any of our members who have been diagnosed as suffering from the corona virus 19 infection. This is good, as it means that it is less likely that our congregation has been involved in transmitting the infection within our community. That does not make this an easy thing, however. It’s tempting for us to believe we overreacted, that we didn’t need to shut things down, and that we should immediately open back up so as to salvage as much as possible, especially for our poor, and for those whose jobs have been eliminated.

The other day, some of our pastors were wondering how best to serve communion safely once we are able to resume worshiping while gathering together within our worship spaces. We don’t have good answers yet.

Some of us are missing participating in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Others are okay with waiting until we are able to gather together once again. To address this, you will

find elsewhere in this newsletter a sheet with instructions that will facilitate your participation in the sacrament at home if you wish. Remember that the power of the sacrament does not originate in the person who presides, but in the Word of God connected with the elements. God is with you always, in the sacrament and in your life as a member of the Body of Christ. Though it is best that we are aware of the community of people in celebrating this gift of God in the sacrament, it is possible to receive Christ even if only one person is present in the room out of the necessity of quarantine regulations.

I have been phoning some of our members while we are kept physically separated from one another, but I admit to being sometimes overly cautious about when and whom to call, and also easily distracted by other worthy tasks (as well as some tasks which might be less worthy!). Please feel free to call me. If I do not answer (I may be on another call or unavailable at the moment), I promise to get back to you if you leave a message with the best way to reach you. (Please avoid Fridays unless it is an emergency.)

I’d like to be able to share ways that you have found to express God’s love during this time of quarantine. What have you experienced that helped you to see God’s presence while



connecting in different ways with people who are physically not in the same room? What ways have you found to worship, especially if you are not able to be online? Please let me know your experiences, and whether you permit me to share your experience with others either online or through our upcoming newsletters.

This building is lonely while we are kept from gathering together, but our faith continues, and we continue to pray for one another, with one another, and on behalf of one another. Be assured that Jesus Christ is with you, and that the Holy Spirit continues to pray with sighs too deep for words.

We query, “How long,” and trust that no matter how long, God stays with us through it all.

**God is with you always, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Pastor Michelle



Parish Nursing Notes.....

Have you had any experiences with family or friends who became seriously ill or injured, and could not speak for themselves? What was it like? Did you think about what it would be like if you were in that situation? How would you want to be treated?

April 16<sup>th</sup> was National Healthcare Decisions Day. And this year it just happens to occur during a time when a lot of people are suddenly becoming severely ill, and may not be able to speak for themselves. And their families are not allowed to be with them in the hospital. How difficult that can be! For both Dick and I, it was easier. Both of our parents had discussed with us, and had written directions about what their wishes were for care at the end of life. We knew they didn't want any extraordinary measures to prolong their lives, and how they wanted to be treated. We were able to play the hymns they loved, sit with them, hold their hands, and talk about favorite memories.

Since we never know when we will be in that situation, it is never too early to make Advance Care Decisions, and think about what kind of care WE would like at the end of life. Advance Care Planning is a process that helps you:

- think about your health care values and goals consider health care choices you may have to make in the future
- talk about your choices with your doctor and your loved ones; and
- make a written plan for the future (Advance Directive)

**Advance Care Planning** is a process over time of understanding, reflecting on, and discussing future medical decisions, including end-of-life preferences. It includes learning about and understanding your health care treatment options, and clarifying your health care goals. It involves weighing your options about what kind of care and treatment you would want or not want. It includes making a decision about whether you want to appoint a health care agent who could speak for you if you were unable to speak, and who that should be. And finally, it involves communicating your wishes and any documents with your family, friends, clergy, physician, and any other advisors as needed. Really sit down with family members and your health care agent, and discuss and explain all your preferences. Talk, and listen to their questions until you know they truly understand your wishes. Medicare now covers a visit with your doctor for the express purpose of discussing your health situation and advance care planning. He/she can explain any treatment options that might arise for you so you can make an informed decision about whether or not they would be acceptable to you when that time comes.



An Advance Directive for Health is available from the State of Wisconsin, or any attorney. Some that include a little more in the areas of comfort care and end-of-life planning are **Five Wishes** and **Honoring Choices**. I have copies of both of these if you are interested in looking at them.

Meanwhile, stay healthy, socially isolated, happy, thankful --- and plan for the future!.....Jean

# HEARTS @ HOME



An option for Communion in your household

## A NOTE ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

The church is anywhere people gather in Jesus' name. When we cannot meet in a church building, God continues to be present in the creative and intentional ways we gather for worship, even when we are limited to gathering in spirit because we live alone.

Holy Communion is a special meal we celebrate when we worship. The bread and wine are mysteriously the real presence of Jesus Christ, and we trust that Jesus is really with us in this meal. When we cannot gather for this meal in a church building together, it is acceptable either to:

- + 1.) **Fast from Holy Communion** until you can worship with others in your church building, OR
- + 2.) **Celebrate Holy Communion in your home.**

## CREATING AN ALTAR TABLE AT HOME

- + **Prepare your table for the meal** – Gather some kind of bread and wine, grape juice, or water (knowing that Jesus can turn water into wine).

## WORSHIP

- + **If possible, participate in a worship service provided on television, the radio, or the Internet +**
- + If the service includes communion, participate with the leadership.
- + If the service does not include communion, use this order to have communion after it is completed.
- + If you have no access to a worship service, read scripture from your Bible or read through a devotional for the day (like "Christ in Our Home").

Include Confession (likely was part of the service, and is part of the Lord's Prayer). You may have a prayer of confession of your own, and remember God's promise of forgiveness.

- + Speak the WORDS OF INSTITUTION +

(Holding the bread) In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

**Pray the Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Eat the bread and drink the wine, juice, or water as works best for everyone who is present, declaring that the bread is the body of Christ, given for each one, and that the cup is the blood of Christ, shed for each one.

**Speak the blessing:** The body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen us and give us peace. Amen.





**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



Dear partner in ministry,

Weeks may have passed since you last walked in the doors of your congregation and worshiped, face-to-face, with your community of faith. To be sure, being the body of Christ looks and feels differently than it ever has before.

**Despite all of this, we are called to be church — together.** The ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) looks different now, but it has not stopped. Nor have the needs of our communities and the world. Our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need.

The congregations and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. Without in-person worship services for many weeks or even months, the financial impact could be devastating.

**Please continue to give to your congregation and give regularly.** Your congregation and its leaders continue to minister to your community of faith. This ministry relies on your weekly offerings. Find out how you can continue your pledge or regular offering through online giving, automatic monthly giving or mail.

I know that, for many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great.

In the United States, unemployment has soared. We are already seeing rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care.

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we anticipate this crisis will affect us all. Your gifts to the ELCA's [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. **If you are able, please help with a gift today.**

I have been reflecting on the words of Peter: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10). Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

Be of good courage, dear church, and remember that Christ is with us now and always.  
In Christ,

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





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.

Also, thank you very much to those who donated to the Lily Fund prior to us knowing that they would not be delivered.

Given by:

Robert Bentley

Debra Grimsrud

Gary & Carol Banker

Lloyd Krob

Arlene Jacobson

Ann Novack & Family

The Organ Fund appreciates all donations as well

Given by:

Lori Van Damme & Julie Connor

In memory of:

Jane Bentley

Loved Ones

Erika Margaret Banker,  
Roger & Margaret  
Erickson, and Albert &  
Margaret Banker

Charles & Tilda Krob,  
Thomas & Gibbie Krob

Richard Jacobson

Loved Ones

In memory of:

Emma Mattson



Worship continues over  
Facebook Live at:

[www.facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior/](http://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior/)



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.

Date for the sale is now TBD and will be announced once gathering restrictions allow for it. Please watch for a new date.

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 items for the rummage sale by appointment only, please call the church to schedule a time for drop off at 715-394-3762

# ANNOUNCEMENT

---

## zoom

Wednesday Confirmation Class will be Wednesday's during May at 1:30 in the afternoon through ZOOM

The class members are to send me an email at [rowell.michelle.r@usa.net](mailto:rowell.michelle.r@usa.net) if they have not already received notification, and the Meeting ID will be sent



To Donate, please use the following:

On our website [www.concordiasuperior.org](http://www.concordiasuperior.org)

or

Through the Give+ app

or

Mailed to Concordia Lutheran Church, 1708 John Ave, Superior, WI 54880



There will be a Council Meeting via ZOOM at  
11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 3rd

~ May 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10a Online Worship via Facebook Live	<b>4</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b> Cinco De Mayo Office Closed 10:30a Pastor's Text Study by ZOOM	<b>6</b> Office Closed 1:30p Wednesday Confirmation Class by ZOOM	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b> Office Closed	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Mother's Day 10a Online Worship via Facebook Live	<b>11</b> Office Closed	<b>12</b> Office Closed 10:30a Pastor's Text Study by ZOOM	<b>13</b> Office Closed 1:30p Wednesday Confirmation Class by ZOOM	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b> Armed Forces Day s
<b>17</b> 10a Online Worship via Facebook Live	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b> Newsletter Articles Due Office Closed 10:30a-Pastor's Text Study by ZOOM	<b>20</b> Office Closed 1:30p Wednesday Confirmation Class by ZOOM	<b>21</b> Office Closed 9:30a-12p Lake Superior Conference Pastors by ZOOM	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10a Online Worship via Facebook Live	<b>25</b> Memorial Day Office Closed 11a-11:30a Online Worship via Facebook Live (Riverside Cemetery)	<b>26</b> Office Closed 10:30a Pastor's Text Study by ZOOM	<b>27</b> Office Closed 1:30p Wednesday Confirmation Class by ZOOM	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10a Pentecost worship (details to be determined)	<p><b>Notes: We are still making plans about the safest way to resume public worship gatherings. If you have provided your email to us and requested to receive Constant Contact emails, we will let you know via email how and when worship gatherings will resume.</b></p> <p><b>You may have your email added to our list by request to <a href="mailto:concordiasuperior@gmail.com">concordiasuperior@gmail.com</a></b></p> <p><b>If you are not and will not be in our email list, please call the office after the "safer at home" restrictions are lifted, and we will do our best to let you know what our procedures will be.</b></p>					

# Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

**Sunday, May 3, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

**Prayer of the Day:** O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Readings

Acts 2:42-47, The believers' common life

Psalm 23, The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

1 Peter 2:19-25, Follow the shepherd, even in suffering

John 10:1-10, Christ the shepherd

**Sunday, May 10, 2020**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

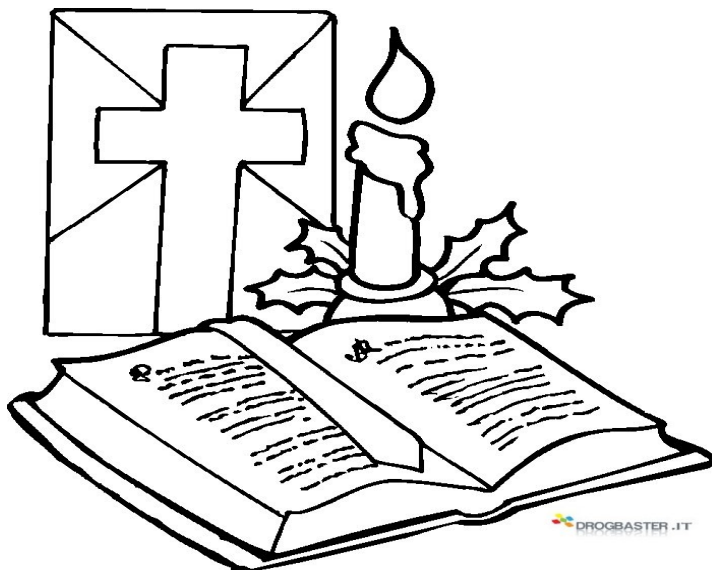
## Readings

Acts 7:55-60, The martyrdom of Stephen

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

1 Peter 2:2-10, God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts

John 14:1-14, Christ the way, truth, and life





# Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks Continued

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Readings

Acts 17:22-31, Paul's message to the Athenians

Psalm 66:8-20, Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

1 Peter 3:13-22, The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

John 14:15-21, Christ our advocate

**Sunday, May 24, 2020**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

**Prayer of the Day:** O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Readings

Acts 1:6-14, Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, God will sustain and restore those who suffer

John 17:1-11, Christ's prayer for his disciples

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**

**Day of Pentecost**

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Readings

Acts 2:1-21, Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit

John 20:19-23, The Spirit poured out

Concordia Lutheran Church  
1708 John Ave.  
Superior, WI 54880

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Superior, WI  
Permit No. 254

**Address Service Requested**

**Place label here**

*The Concordian is published monthly since 1981  
by:*

Concordia Lutheran Church  
1708 John Avenue Superior, WI 54880  
(715) 394-3762 – Office  
(Formerly Concordia Churchman 1961-1981)

E-mail:

Pastor Michelle: [rowell.michelle.r@usa.net](mailto:rowell.michelle.r@usa.net)  
Church Office: [concordiasuperior@gmail.com](mailto:concordiasuperior@gmail.com)

Websites:

Church website: [www.concordiasuperior.org](http://www.concordiasuperior.org)

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)

Michelle R. Rowell, Pastor  
Beth Sobczak, Keyboards  
Dr. Héctor Landa, Keyboards  
Nancy O'Neill, Office Manager  
Jean Riedasch, Parish Nurse  
David Eastman, Custodian  
Matt Eastman, Technologies

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

# The Concordian

May

Vol. 39 No. 5

A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church  
Superior, Wisconsin  
715.394.3762

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

## Sunday Worship Schedule

**10:00 am Worship (currently online only)**

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**

## 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.