



# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI

August 2020

Vol 39 No. 8

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

## *From Pastor Michelle* **Life and Living During a Pandemic**

It was disappointing that we were not able to gather for worship on the lawn on July 12 or 19 as we had planned. I believe, though, that our decision was the correct one, particularly with the rising number of positive cases in our county. Our council is working on ways to open the building in a limited capacity for members who wish to be here in person to gather in relative safety.

But it is difficult, because we do not wish to become a source of spreading the infection that causes so much suffering, and even death for some (with no firm understanding of long-term effects at this time).

I just finished reading the story of an immigrant family in Michigan. The children, aged 20, 18, and 13, lost both of their parents to COVID-19 in the space of about a month. Tears ran down my face as I read and thought of their struggle, being completely unprepared to live on their own by a culture that did not believe in teaching independent skills until the time of marriage. They are receiving support from community members, which gives me solace.

I’ve changed the picture with this article because it felt wrong, somehow, to continue to be smiling from the page in full vestments at this time. This photo is not the high-quality image we’re used to, as it was cut from a screenshot from the “Gospel Time” portion of our online service, taken the day we would have been gathered outside on the lawn, the day we would have been wearing masks to gather most safely...

Beaky (the green bird) and Munchie (the chipmunk) have been helping to tell the story of God’s love during this time while children cannot

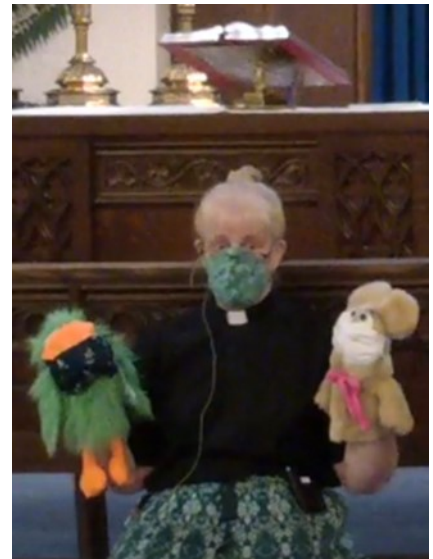
come forward to interact with me for our Gospel Time message.

By the time this newsletter is compiled and mailed, I believe we will be under a mandatory mask requirement (while in public) in the cities of Superior and Duluth. This makes many people angry. I understand that to a certain extent. Some believe that wearing masks is a sign of fear. Others believe it is a sign of witless blind compli-

ance. We were planning to require them here for any in-person gatherings simply because evidence suggests it is the most effective way to slow the spread of the virus if everyone wears one when in the vicinity of others. We do it out of love for others, not out of fear for ourselves.

We learned about the Black Plague in the Middle Ages. We learned about the 1918 flu pandemic. We learned about Polio and other infectious disease. Mostly we believed we’d moved beyond all that. Apparently not.

This article feels disjointed to me, and I’m okay with that, because living during a pandemic feels disjointed as well. We are all doing what we can day to day to meet the day’s needs. We pray, “Give us this day our daily bread,” and trust that God will do just that. We live during this pandemic as we live always, trusting in the presence and in the love of the God who created us, sustains us, and keeps us. In Jesus’ name. Amen





## **Parish Nursing Notes.....**

Here we are—halfway through the year, and at least 5 months into the pandemic. Hopefully, everyone is staying safe, and maintaining social connections (even though we can't socialize in person).

There are some other things we can do in this "stay-at-home" period. We can assess our lifestyle habits, and work on improving those. So many chronic health problems are affected by our diets, our exercise (or lack of), and other habits, such as smoking, drinking, etc. And in this pandemic, we still have to take care of our bodies and our under-lying health problems. I know at the beginning of the social isolation, I got into cooking and baking. I looked up old recipes from my mom and grandma, and made many of those. And, of course with just two of us, I always had left-overs, which I put in the freezer for later use. And, living out in the country, we went for daily walks without having to worry about maintaining a six-foot distance from others. We also got busy with planting and maintaining our garden and flowering plants. Especially watering! We relaxed on our deck with morning coffee, and an occasional evening glass of wine. So we started out good! Then things started to change. I got tired of cooking, and it was too hot and humid to go on



walks or sit on the deck. We did keep up with the gardening and watering, but that doesn't provide that much exercise. And after all the stores in the freezer ran out, we started eating whatever was handy and didn't require much work, or getting takeout from the Kopper Kettle. We resorted to puzzles and cribbage and computer games—and reading. And taking rides in the car. Not much exercise there!

Now, into the next phase! The garden started producing! So that got us back into daily salads, fresh broccoli, and some chicken or fish to go with it. And it tasted good! And we got more energy, so we started walking again—either early in the day, or in the evening. And we felt more energetic and cheerful. And an occasional glass of wine on the deck was enjoyable again. I haven't got back into the baking mode yet—just occasional batches of cookies so I have some on hand when the boys come to mow the lawn.

It not only FEELS good to follow a healthier lifestyle, it also helps keep various health problems from progressing. Problems like diabetes, heart and respiratory problems, and even muscular-skeletal problems like arthritis, respond. They not only are kept from getting worse, but sometimes even get a little better!

Of course, we have to keep up with coronavirus precautions. Masks are worn whenever other people are around, or grocery shopping (at the earlier hours), or out in any public place. That is for our protection as well as the protection of others. And maintaining the six-foot spacing of people when out and about. *"A wise man listens to advice."* (Proverbs 12:15).

*"Strengthen our resolve, O God, to take better care of ourselves;*

*For we eat, drink, and choose risky lifestyles, and then want to blame You!*

*As we live with our consequences, Help us know You as the loving parent*

*Who weeps first when your children get themselves into trouble."*

By Margaret Anne Huffman.

I like this prayer, and it seems to fit in with the current times, as well as adopting a healthy lifestyle. Stay happy, healthy, and helpful.....Jean

The following dates are open flower dates:

August 2, August 9, August 16

If you would like to contribute towards flowers,  
please Contact Carol Banker

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.

Given by:

Aug. 23, Bill & Lois O'Neill

Aug. 30, Nancy Spiering

In memory of:

Loved Ones

Nancy Spiering

### Memoriams

In memory of Larry Quam

#### **Organ Fund**

Given By:  
Richard Wnek  
Marie Peterson

#### **Bus Fund**

Given By:  
Lois & Bill O'Neill  
Steve & Ada Ledin



## **Recent Congregational Deaths**

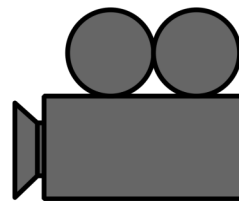
Larry (Lawrence J.) Quam, June 7, 2020, services at a later date when safer for people to gather.

Karla Hanson, July 3, 2020, services at a later date when safer for people to gather.



Worship continues over  
Facebook Live at:

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



### **Directions to access the Online Service**

1. Using your tablet, iPad, phone, computer or any source for the internet you have, open your internet browser and search for [www.concordiasuperior.org/home](http://www.concordiasuperior.org/home)
2. On the home page for Concordia Lutheran Church, scroll down until you see "Access our page using the following link"
  - 2a. You will also see the previous weeks' videos are also posted below. Just click the week you are looking for and it will bring you to the video.
3. Click the link
4. You will be redirected to Facebook where you are now able to find the current and previous services to watch and enjoy from the comfort of your home.



**Thank you to Brent Lippitt for donating a newer stove to replace the old one in our kitchenette!**



**Nine of the twelve organ pipes are still available.**

We are now putting the word out beyond our membership, so if you are considering donating to receive a pipe, please contact us as soon as possible. (Please see last month's newsletter, available online at [ConcordiaSuperior.org](http://ConcordiaSuperior.org) for further details.)

If you are interested in a pipe, or would like further information, please contact Beth Sobczak at (715) 718-1088

or [beth.sobczak@gmail.com](mailto:beth.sobczak@gmail.com) (email preferred).

**Suggested** donation is \$200-\$300, with an addition of \$50 for simple artwork added.

## **From Our Congregational President (and Council)**

My Fellow Concordians,

I hope you are staying healthy and doing well. The council and I have been discussing our worship situation these past few months. We have been very cautious about coming back together, as the safety of the congregation is first and foremost on our minds in this decision making. It seems that every time we come close to being able to gather together again, we have another Covid-19 setback. As you know, we had planned to have an outdoor service in July that we had postpone. We are aiming to try another outdoor service on August 23rd. If all goes well, we are planning a worship service of some type in the sanctuary in September. I know this has been a long and frustrating Spring and Summer. It seems eons ago we were last able to gather together in worship. The time is coming we shall be able to do so again. We will be looking for input from the congregation in the coming weeks in planning our services. Please share your thoughts and return the questionnaire included in the August Concordian as soon as you are able. Thank you all so much for patience and faith in our decisions.

Yours in Christ,

Kristofor Hanson, Council President, and the Concordia Lutheran Church Council



Pastor Maggie Isaacson (Speich) was a pastor at Concordia Lutheran from 2000-2003 and she is RETIRING!

Her family will be having a party for her on August 30<sup>th</sup>, along with fireworks. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Sarah Hill at 715-410-4315 for more information by either text or phone call.

We ask that those coming do abide by best practices for social distancing at the gathering (washing hands, not touching nose/face, 6 feet between family groups and/or try to keep that distance the best you can, masks encouraged). We know that a lot of folks are family and friends, yet we will be coming from a wide geographical area.

If you can't attend and you would like to send a card here is her address:

Maggie Isaacson  
921 E. 3rd Ave  
Luck WI 54853

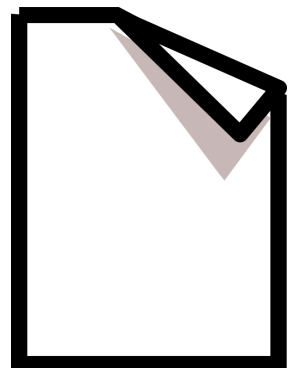
Please call or text Sarah hill know if you have any other questions

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## Printed Copies of the Sermons Available

Those who do not have Internet Access may request printed copies of the sermons created by Pastor Michelle each week.

If you wish to receive a printed copy (to be mailed the day the post office opens after the Sunday service), please call the church office. We will maintain a list of the requests and continue to mail copies until requested to discontinue. Please specify regular print (12 pt) or **large print (20 pt)**.



# Let's Try This Again...

# Worship on the Lawn

## Sunday, August 23, 2020

We plan to gather in person on the lawn outside the church building for worship on Sunday, August 23. There will be no tent, but shade is available in certain places.

9:55



10:35



If you have any symptoms in the following list that are new and not due to a known long-term condition, please do not plan to come. Instead, contact the local Coronavirus Screening and Testing Center at (218) 249-4609.

- Fever, Chills, or Repeated Shaking/Shivering
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of Breath, Difficulty Breathing
- Feeling Unusually Weak or Fatigued
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Runny or congested nose
- Diarrhea

The bus will not run. The building will not be open. Bathrooms will not be available. Holy Communion and hymns will be omitted. The entire event is expected to last from 20-30 minutes.

**Masks will be required**, and please bring your own chair. **If you need us to provide a chair, please call ahead so that we have enough available.** The lawn will be marked to assist participants in being well-spaced from one another, and masks will be available for those who arrive without them.



Offering is to be placed in the provided boxes as you arrive or as you leave.



This worship event will also be live-streamed to allow people to participate from other spaces as well.

If the local rise in cases continues to escalate or in the case of inclement weather, this may not happen. If you are wondering, please call the church. We expect to put notice of any cancelation on the answering machine message.



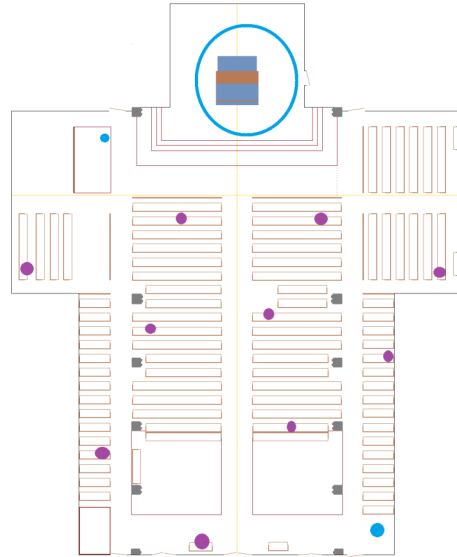
# Survey for In-Person Worship

When the seriousness of the novel coronavirus pandemic struck and we followed the directive to cease in-person gatherings in order to slow the spread, few expected the crisis to last this long. We know that we cannot safely merely go back to the way things were: gathering in large groups with little distance between people, shaking hands, singing shoulder-to-shoulder.

Science tells us that speaking loudly or singing produces more (and smaller) droplets (called aerosols) that can more easily travel through the masks we wear, and that these droplets can hang in the air for long periods of time.

We've produced a floor map of Concordia with marked spaces that would put approximately 25 feet of space between households as a possibility for providing at least some normalcy to the worship experience (allowing us to sing softly).

The blue circle and the blue dots indicate where worship leaders may be (the dot at the upper left may indicate a pianist, but we expect pianists/organists to remain in the rear balcony). Purple dots indicate where you and other participants would be seated. We will expect people to call ahead so that we can limit attendance to 10 households.



Please help us by completing the survey below and returning it to Concordia by **August 23 (earlier is preferred)**. Council will be meeting after worship that day and would like to have as much information from our members as possible as we make plans to move forward. You may mail it in the envelope provided (please attach a stamp) or you may send the information by email to [ConcordiaSuperior@gmail.com](mailto:ConcordiaSuperior@gmail.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark as many as apply.)

- ◇ I plan to worship from home until a vaccine is available.
- ◇ I prefer to gather without any singing or communion at an earlier time than the online offering.
- ◇ I want communion but no hymns.

- ◇ I want hymns, but no communion.
- ◇ I want both hymns and communion.
- ◇ I will be there whatever council decides.
- ◇ I will not attend until normal worship can be resumed.
- ◇ I would come if... (in comments)

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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(Enclose another sheet if desired)

# ANNOUNCEMENT

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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

The Rummage Sale Committee is asking that no more donations be brought to the building until further notice, as we are unsure when we can have a sale, and current donations are numerous.

Please watch for further information.





~ August 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10a-11a Worship online	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10a-11a Worship online	<b>10</b> Office Closed 6p-7p Property Management Committee by ZOOM?	<b>11</b> 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10a-11a Worship online	<b>17</b> Office Closed 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee by ZOOM	<b>18</b> 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study	<b>19</b> Office Closed	<b>20</b> Office Closed	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10a-11a Worship online and on the lawn (if possible) Council on the lawn after worship	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b> 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10a-11a Worship online	<b>31</b> Office Closed	<b>Notes: Pastor Michelle is generally in the office on Monday's through Thursdays from 9:00-Noon. Messages will be returned as soon as possible if phone is not answered. You may also call her cell phone at (715) 919-0472. Messages there will also be re-turned as soon as possible. Please leave information on what time would be too late or too early in the day for the return call.</b>				

# Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

## Sunday, August 2, 2020

## 9th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. Let us remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we live in a world altered by pandemic, we do what we can to ensure that those who are hunger are able to access good food.

**Prayer of the Day:** Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings

Isaiah 55:1-5, Eat and drink that which truly satisfies

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21, You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Romans 9:1-5, The glory of God's people Israel

Matthew 14:13-21, Christ feeding five thousand

## Sunday, August 9, 2020

## 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting word and sacrament, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

**Prayer of the Day:** O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings

1 Kings 19:9-18, The Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb

Psalms 85:8-13, I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

Romans 10:5-15, Hearing and confessing the word of faith

Matthew 14:22-33, Jesus walking on the sea

## Sunday, August 16, 2020

## 11th Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? May we receive inspiration and strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

**Prayer of the Day:** God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, A house of prayer for all peoples

Psalms 67, Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28, The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

# Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks Continued

**Sunday, August 23, 2020**

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. Let us always go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings

Isaiah 51:1-6, The enduring foundation of God's salvation

Psalms 138, O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

Romans 12:1-8, One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Matthew 16:13-20, The profession of Peter's faith

**Sunday, August 30, 2020**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. Today, we gather as a spiritually and in community (as safely as possible), that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings

Jeremiah 15:15-21, God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalms 26:1-8, Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Romans 12:9-21, Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28, The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

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Superior, WI 54880

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Websites:

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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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Beth Sobczak, Keyboards  
Dr. Héctor Landa, Keyboards  
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David Eastman, Custodian  
Matt Eastman, Technologies

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

# The Concordian

August

Vol. 39 No. 8

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 (Mostly 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.