



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI

September 2020

Vol 39 No. 9

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

From Pastor Michelle

Our first outdoor in-person worship event (that actually happened) this year occurred on August 23. The day was overcast and started out a bit misty, but by ten o'clock, 21 people were gathered (well-spaced) on the lawn.

As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, we'll be doing this again on September 20 and on October 4 (maybe with jackets!). We'll also begin to have limited gathering opportunities inside our worship space. The first of these is planned for September 27.

So far (I'm writing on August 24), we've not been hit terribly hard by the virus here in Douglas County. Though cases have been rising, none (as of yet) have resulted in death. Few have even required hospitalization. This is good, and it is tempting for us to relax, to return to what was normal before the appearance of this virus. After all, were we not already behaving well, to avoid infection? Were we not already washing our hands, if not as thoroughly, at least regularly?

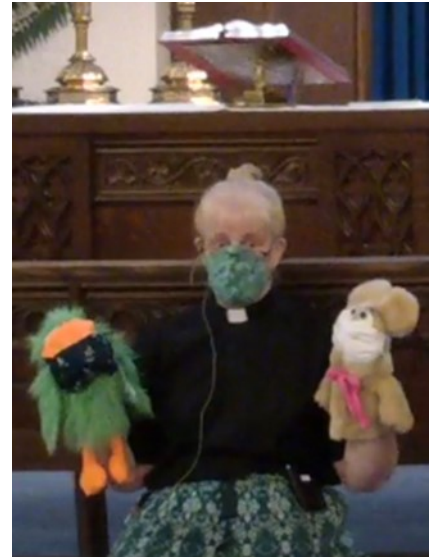
Our council includes people who work in emergency response, education, manufacturing, the legal system, service, and delivery. Most members are in contact with people regularly, and encourage us to follow good practices. Some would rather keep the building shut for the foreseeable future out of an abundance of caution. Some believe we are being too cautious. Yet, the consensus as we have gathered is to move cautiously forward out of an abundance of love for the people of God here at Concordia and in the surrounding community.

One of the problems I see in the general response to this pandemic is in our choice of language. We speak of **Social Distancing**. I understand that this is meant that we maintain our distance from one another when gathering socially, but I believe a better term would be

Physical Distancing.

It is good for us to maintain social contacts while physically distancing from one another.

Some do this with online programs through the Internet. Some are faithfully calling one another on the phone. Some are calling on the phone those they didn't call previously, just to say hello and ask how things are going.



Some are also cautiously visiting with a limited group of people who are also cautious in those with whom they come into contact. The other day, I saw a list called "Advice from 1918" which was titled, "Do's and Don't's for Influenza Prevention." In parentheses was "Douglas Island." (I don't have any further information on its origin, not even whether it comes from health advisers...) Much of the advice was very similar to that which we receive today. It began with "Wear a mask." Further down it advised us not to neglect our mask. I'm unsure whether that meant to keep it clean or just keep it handy! However, the final piece of advice was unexpected, and in all caps: **DON'T WORRY.**

In addition to Jesus' cautions against worry, I remind you of Paul's letter to the Philippians, in which he says, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (4:6)

Blessings! *Pastor Michelle*



Parish Nursing Notes.....

Several years ago, I wrote a newsletter article that seems to fit in well with our current situation in this country. It was based on a phrase that a pastor used at a synod assembly that I attended. The phrase was, “well-to-do.” But he did not use it to refer to financial status. Instead he added two words to it, making it, “*well-to-do God’s work.*” And it strikes me that this is a good time for us to re-visit that phrase.

In our church, it is currently closed for gathering together, and we are searching for a new secretary. The only place we socialize is on Facebook! And nationally we are dealing with “social Isolation” as a result of the Covid-19 virus, and social unrest and violence on a large scale. But God still has lots of work for us to do—perhaps more than ever! And we are all called to help in whatever way we can. Romans 12:6 reminds us we all have different gifts, and every time we use them we are doing God’s work in many different ways.

Staying well enough to do God’s work not only helps others, it has many benefits for us as well. It helps us to:

- avoid lifestyle-related illness
- feel better in mind and body
- role-model healthy behaviors for our children
- age with strength and dignity
- decrease overall health costs

- be better stewards of gifts given by God
- endure hardships with resilience and grace
- have a healthier relationship with God
- be a more effective participant in the congregation, work place, and world.

Being “well” doesn’t just refer to our physical well-being. It also includes our emotional, social, intellectual, vocational, and spiritual well-being. If one area is out of balance, the others are affected as well. And working on any one of these can help restore balance in all of them.



As summer ends, we can work on our physical wellness. We have easier access to fresh fruits and vegetables from our own gardens and local Farmer’s Markets. And we can get outside (with masks) for exercise and fresh air. Our usual reunions and gatherings with relatives and friends may be limited to virtual ones—but we can still do that! And with vacation time, or being cut back on work hours, we can develop our intellectual or vocational wellness. We have time to read, or develop new skills for the vocational part. In our part of the country, we can often develop a spirit of thankfulness—for the few days of warmth (without the humidity), the sun, and time for relaxation. But very often we get so distracted with all these things, that we forget the spiritual part, and our relationship with God.

So, this summer take stock of your “wellness” status, and of all the gifts you have been given. Decide what areas need more focus, and what gifts you have been given to share. Then come back ready and “*well-to-do God’s work*” in our church and community.

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.” (1 John: 2). That is my prayer for you.....Jean

The Concordia Lutheran Church Women
have honored the following students
as recipients of the
2020 Boe-Engebretson Student Award.
We wish them the best
in the upcoming school year.

Gunnar Gronski

Jarrett Gronski

Alex Hanson

Blake Hanson

Audra LePage



We have hired a new office manager!

Vanessa Johnson is beginning to become familiar with the office and the tasks required of her as you receive this newsletter. We give thanks for her coming to work with us and we offer our welcome!

We also give our thanks to **Nancy O'Neill**, for having continued with the financial responsibilities after she left this position for her full-time work elsewhere, and for training Vanessa as she passes these duties on to her.

Thank you, also, to **Alicen Johnson** (Nancy's future daughter-in-law) for putting together these newsletters while we've been without an office manager!

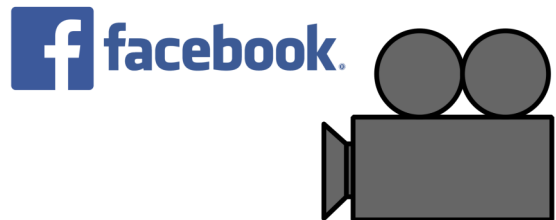
Hardcopies of the Sermons Available

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).

**Worship continues over
Facebook Live at:**

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
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 week 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 will be able to find the current and previous services to watch and enjoy from the comfort of your home.

It Worked! Let's Do This Again...

Worship on the Lawn

Sundays, September 20 and October 4, 2020

We plan to gather in person on the lawn outside the church building for worship on September 20 and October 4. There will be no tent, but shade is available in certain places.

9:55 (on July 27)



10:35 (on July 27)



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.



These worship events 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.

~ September 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a Pastor's Text Study (Billings Park)	2 Office Closed	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5
6 10a- Online Worship	7 Labor Day	8 Office Closed 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a Pastor's Text Study (Billings Park)	9 Office Closed	10 Office Closed	11 Patriot Day Office Closed	12
13 10a Online Worship	14 Office Closed 6p-7p Property Management Committee	15 Office Closed 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a Pastor's Text Study (Billings Park)	16 Office Closed	17 Office Closed 9:30a-12p Lake Superior Conference Pastors (ZOOM?)	18 Office Closed	19
20 10a Outdoor Worship	21 Office Closed 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	22 Fall begins Office Closed 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a Pastor's Text Study (Billings Park)	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 10a Limited In-Person and Online Worship	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a Pastor's Text Study (Billings Park)	30 Office Closed	Notes: Office is closed generally at this time, but appointments can be made. Please call ahead, and we will do our best to accommodate relevant needs.		

Our First Pandemic Opportunity for In-Person Worship

(Inside the building)

Sunday, September 27, 2020

On Sunday, September 27, we will have an opportunity for a limited number of households to gather for worship inside our worship space at Concordia.

The elevator will be available. One household unit (for example, a married couple) in the elevator at a time.

Those who do not need the elevator are asked to enter by the main doors on the far west side, and to leave (one household at a time) through the hall by the pastor's office and out the tower door.

Seating will be according to the attached floor map of the worship space. Each household would sit in the area of a purple dot. (The worship space will also have indicators where seating is available.)

Masks will be required, and will be available at the entrances.

Offering boxes will be placed near the entrance and near the exit.

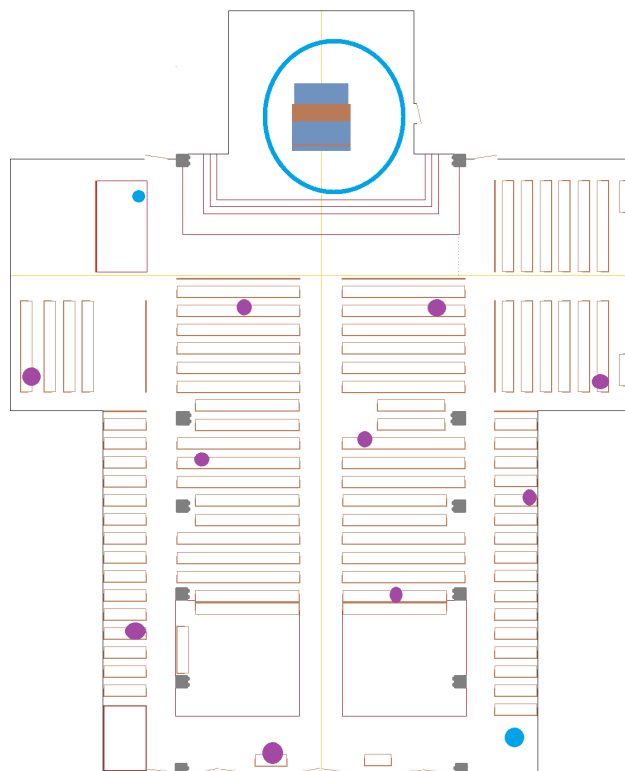
Singing will be limited, and verbal responses will be allowed.

We are exploring how Holy Communion might be made available at this worship service.

If you plan to come, you must call ahead and let us know. Priority (at this first service) will be given to those members who are unable to join us online. However, if you are able to join us online and want to come, please call. We do not (at this time) have a reliable estimate of how many will wish to be in the building.

If you are sick (even if it's just a cold), do not gather in person for worship.

Hand sanitizer will be available.



Attendees will be trusted to practice proper care in use of restrooms (if needed).

Attendance will be recorded (process yet to be determined) in the event of the need for contact tracing. (If someone has been at worship who soon after tests positive, we need to know who to contact.)

If all goes well, and if the community does not experience a large rise in cases, **we expect to be able to continue** this practice beginning the second Sunday in October for the near future. (Worship on the first Sunday in October is scheduled to be outdoors.)

ANNOUNCEMENT



To Donate, please use the following:

On our website 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.



Concordia Lutheran Council and Committee Relationships

President	Kris Hanson 715-977-1260
Vice President	Shawn Quist 218-343-6795
Secretary	John Gronski 218-340-1813
Treasurer	Doug Score 218-260-0657
Audit	Mark Thompson 715-392-3166

Education	Blake Hanson
Evangelism	Matt Ketola 715-363-2567
Concordia Cares	Jan Lippitt 218-390-6917
Worship & Music	Ken Harmer 218-390-8218
Youth & Family	Mike Olson 715-398-0343
Property & Mgmt Stewardship	Shawn & Mark John Gronski

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, September 6, 2020

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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

Ezekiel 33:7-11, The prophet's responsibility to warn the people

Psalms 119:33-40, I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

Romans 13:8-14, Live honorably as in the day

Matthew 18:15-20, Reconciliation in the community of faith

Sunday, September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Genesis 50:15-21, Joseph reconciles with his brothers

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13, Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

Romans 14:1-12, Accepting diversity in the community of faith

Matthew 18:21-35, A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks Continued

Sunday, September 20, 2020

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Jonah 3:10--4:11, God's concern for the city of Nineveh

Psalms 145:1-8, The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

Philippians 1:21-30, Standing firm in the gospel

Matthew 20:1-16, The parable of the vineyard workers

Sunday, September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Prayer of the Day: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord **Amen.**

Readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, The fairness of God's way

Psalms 25:1-9, Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

Philippians 2:1-13, Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross

Matthew 21:23-32, A parable of doing God's will

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Superior, WI 54880

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ELCA website: www.elca.org

Luther Point Bible Camp website:

www.lutherpoint.org

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September

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A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church
Superior, Wisconsin
715.394.3762

www.concordiasuperior.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

September 6 & 13, Online Only

September 20, Outdoors on the Lawn (and online)

September 27, limited in person inside (and online)

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