



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI November 2020 Vol 39 No. 11

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

From Pastor Michelle

November is just around the corner as I write, with the promise of the Thanksgiving holiday. What will that be like this year? The news reported that the turkey producers fear that they have produced too many large birds in a year when it is likely not safe to gather in large groups. I checked what I could about the annual Thanksgiving Day Buffet at the DECC, but all I’ve been able to determine at the time of this writing is that they will not be able to have the large gathering this year. Hopefully, we’ll have more information on that in another portion of this newsletter. (Call not returned, so, no...)

My guess is that fewer will be thronging to the stores for shopping on what has come to be known as Black Friday... how sad it would be to score a great deal only to find ourselves unable to enjoy it.

My mind goes far back into history, as some of the refugees from religious persecution in Europe were welcomed and aided by the indigenous Wampanoag people nearly 400 years ago. It was not yet an annual event. It was not yet viewed as an invasion. How much has changed in 400 years?

How much has changed in one?

The presidential election is scheduled for November 3, but with the current pandemic increasing the number of ballots presented through the mail rather than in person, the counting is expected to take a bit longer. So it may take a few extra days to determine who will be our president after January 20 of next year.

Many of our people are doing their best to live well in a time of unusual circumstances. Pandemics have happened before, but rarely have they been met with so much fierce opposition between people who each offer differing ways to respond.

People are mocking one another because they differ in the ways they care for the community.

What is happening in this land, as we move into another month of quarantines and distancing and wearing of face coverings and copious use of hand sanitizer and hand washing?

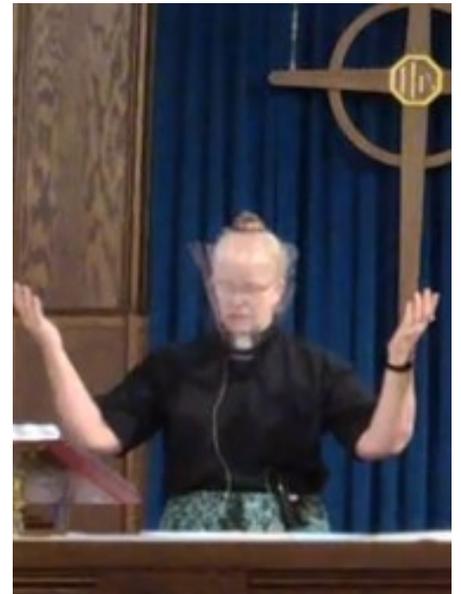
One of the biggest church conversations right now is however not dealing with either the election or the Thanksgiving holiday. It’s Christmas.

It is likely we will not have a working vaccine—at least not one available to the general public—before Christmas.

We love for our worship spaces to be filled at Christmas, but gathering so close together is not recommended. We love to sing traditional carols together at Christmas, but singing together is not recommended. So many congregations depend upon Christmas offerings to keep them viable for one more year... What will it mean if they cannot safely open their doors for Christmas?

The recommendations are to provide Christmas worship online, so that everyone can safely participate together from safe spaces. At least one church I know is planning to do so, and to mail out DVDs. What will we do?

Remember, whatever we do, we cannot stop the real Christmas miracle from happening. Jesus was born. God is among us, and nothing can take that away. Give thanks for God’s love as you observe Thanksgiving this year. Give thanks for our opportunities to share that love, in Jesus’ name. Amen



Blessings! *Pastor Michelle*



Parish Nursing Notes...

I'm at my usual thoughts of "thankfulness" in November. But with all that's been going on in 2020, you'd think there's nothing much to be thankful for this year. And yet, there are, perhaps, even more than in other years!

As always, when I look out my windows, or drive into town, I see all the beauty of this world God has created for us. The beautiful trees of green, yellow, gold, orange, and red make me immediately think of the hymn, "How Great Thou Art." The produce from our garden has given us delicious food. The numerous phone calls from family and friends have shared so much love, and we have been able to stay in touch. We have experienced God's love every minute of every day! Even during troubled times, we know that we are not alone, and God is always there to support us. I have discovered the father-daughter duet team, Matt and Savannah Shaw, on facebook. And they immediately lift our spirits after seeing all the depressing news on TV.

I received an article on one of my health sites lately that discussed some of the blessings of this social-distancing time. Families have gotten to know each other a little more deeply, and to share activities with each other rather than with different friends. They have started walking outdoors more often, and begun really enjoying all the gifts of nature. They reported a study of numerous couples who walked outdoors more often. One group consisted of those

who walked merely for the exercise—walking quickly to achieve their 5000 step goal so they could go home and collapse in front of the TV again. The other group walked for the enjoyment—stopping to enjoy and rave over the colors of the trees, and other spots of beauty. They waved at friends and neighbors they saw along the way, and asked (from a distance) if they needed any help. Then they compared how likely members of each group were to become infected with the covid virus. Many more of those in the first group ended up testing positive for the virus. The second group, who experienced and expressed joy and love on their walks, had very few testing positive.



This supports other studies that show "thankfulness" and "gratefulness" are very important in maintaining a healthy state. Thankful people tend to take better care of themselves—exercising regularly, eating a healthy diet, and seeking regular medical care. It also builds positive feelings. It found that people who regularly express their feelings of gratitude tend to: get more and better sleep at night; have fewer headaches, nausea, episodes of pain, and other symptoms of illness. They have a greater sense of well-being, and view life as pleasurable, interesting, and exciting. I know not all things can easily be looked at in a positive way. But most days will have at least one thing that can be viewed positively, and worthy of thanks. Even if it is only the beautiful leaves! If you can put everything else aside for just a moment, and focus on the gift of the leaves, it can lift your spirits. Look at everyday things that we take for granted and consider what a gift they really are.

So remember Psalm 107:1, "**O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.**" Give thanks to God, and to others, and both you and they will reap the benefits! Stay happy, healthy, and grateful.....Jean

Organ Fundraiser Update!

We met our Goal

However, the fund remains open to accept donations for future organ needs. .



Holy Communion



We are having communion now that we have the option of inside worship. The elements are placed on a small table at each distanced seating position (covered until time of use). Those joining online are encouraged to have some kind of bread and either wine, juice, or water **if they wish** to participate in the sacrament.

Hardcopies of the Sermons Available
call for information 715-394-3762

Worship continues over
Facebook Live at:

www.facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior/
call for assistance in accessing the video

**Reservations Required
for In-Person Worship
(when offered)
until further notice.
715-394-3762**

Christmas Eve Worship

Currently we are working very hard to determine the best way to worship on Christmas Eve. We want to behave in the most loving manner for our community and our membership. We will be discussing options at the next council meeting.

We all feel that Christmas Eve Services are a very important family tradition, but we do not want to endanger the safety of our loved ones during this time.

Thank you!





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

2020 HURRICANES

How can You Help?

Pray

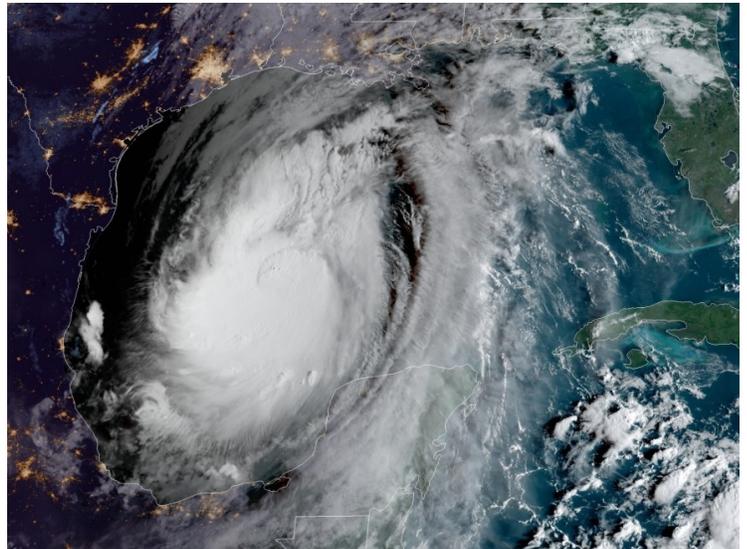
Let us pray for the people who have been affected by the 2020 hurricanes. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give

Contribute to Lutheran Disaster Response (Hurricane Response).

Connect

Share our posts on your social media sites and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Concordia Lutheran Council and Committee Relationships

President	Kris Hanson 715-977-1260	Education	Blake Hanson
Vice President	Shawn Quist 218-343-6795	Evangelism	Matt Ketola 715-363-2567
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Treasurer	Doug Score 218-260-0657	Worship & Music	Ken Harmer 218-390-8218
Audit	Mark Thompson 715-392-3166	Youth & Family	Mike Olson 715-398-0343
		Property & Management Stewardship	Shawn & Mark John Gronski

From Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Northwestern Synod of Wisconsin

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:
to care for orphans and widows in their distress.. James 1:27*

Recently, the domestic abuse shelter, Embrace, which serves Barron, Price, Washburn and Rusk counties in NW Wisconsin, lost county funding for the work that it does to help individuals and families find safety and protection from abusive partners. The reported \$25,000 cut in funding was in reaction to the organization's display of Black Lives Matter placards at its facilities and its antiracism statement on its website. Several local and national news agencies picked up the story. About 15% of the victims that are served by Embrace are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). When I read Embrace's anti-racism statement, I was struck by how it echoed many ideas expressed in statements of my church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's condemnation of racism and white supremacy.

It grieves my heart that funding for the only domestic abuse shelter in four counties in Northwest Wisconsin has been cut. A study from Rutgers documented an increase in domestic violence since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. Access to the support of a domestic abuse shelter can be a matter of life or death. Surely this conflict will put the most vulnerable families among us in even more danger.

My response to this situation may be perceived as a partisan political statement. Let me assure you it is not. It is a matter of faith. Racism and the resulting racial violence is a sin. Domestic violence is a sin. As Christians we are called to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8. For me to be silent in the face of this injustice is sin.

As a church, as people of faith, we are called to care for the "least of these my brothers and sisters," for those on the fringes, the weak, the poor, and the vulnerable. We are called to end the root causes of injustice, violence, and poverty. As ELCA Lutherans we often say, God's Work, Our Hands, and I add Our Voices. Addressing injustice in our society is God's work and it requires our voices.

If you are a person of faith, I invite you to pray about how you can speak the truth and act justly in the face of this situation. Pray that the conflict between the board and Embrace is resolved and funding restored. Pray that we work together to end racism, racial violence and domestic violence. Pray for courage and wisdom. Use the voice God has given you to speak on behalf of those whose voice has been silenced or unheard.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

The news of the cut in funding has been reported by HuffPost, CNN, and WQOW.

The anti-racism statements from the bishops of the ELCA and from Embrace can be referenced on the following page.

ELCA reaffirms commitment to combat racism and white supremacy

Signed by all 65 bishops, 5/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reaffirms its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy following the recent murders of Black Americans. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, and George Floyd were our neighbors. Ahmaud Arbery was chased down, shot, and killed by a retired police officer and his son while jogging in Brunswick, Ga. (Feb. 23, 2020). Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020). Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis died after being shot at least eight times by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer (May 6, 2020). George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis while begging for his life, a block away from Calvary Lutheran, an ELCA congregation (May 25, 2020). As the Conference of Bishops, we condemn the white supremacy that has led to the deaths of so many unarmed Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color in our country. We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy.

The ELCA's social policy resolution, "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions." As church, together we must work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcize the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

Embrace Supports Communities of Color

In the midst of a national uprising and dialogue on state violence, Embrace adds their voices affirming the humanity and dignity of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). We share the global grief over the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery as well as the shootings of Jacob Blake, and the many other acts of racist violence perpetrated against Black people over the past 400 years in this country. Like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Emmett Till, they will not be forgotten.

As an anti-violence organization, Embrace cannot end one form of violence without addressing the other, and we cannot properly serve all survivors if we do not acknowledge and address the oppression and violence the most marginalized survivors are experiencing. Embrace does not support or advocate violence against anyone, even those who are accused of doing harm. Racism, police violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence all have the same root causes, and they interact and compound on each other both in society and within the survivors we serve. Intimate partner violence will not end if we silo it and ignore the other oppressions. If we put the most marginalized and oppressed person in our community at the center of our work and work toward their safety and liberation, it will necessitate the safety and liberation of everyone else too. We will not remain silent and neutral in the face of violence and oppression.

If we want to end intimate partner violence and sexual violence, we must grapple with our country's long history of racism, slavery, genocide, and colonization. Racism and white supremacy are prevalent in our communities. Violence disproportionately affects our Communities of Color. Listening to the lived experiences of BIPOC survivors, colleagues, and community members, we recognize racial trauma and violence is a daily occurrence that directly impacts BIPOC and robs the rest of us of our humanity. We are committed to acknowledging these experiences. We understand we are consciously and unconsciously shaped by a culture deeply embedded with white supremacy. We know the burden lies with white allies to undo the violent system we live in and benefit from and that People of Color suffer the most in.

We are aware that our own anti-violence movement is not immune to enabling oppressive systems. We recognize the voices that have built and continue to build the philosophies that drive our work come from Black women, Indigenous women, and those with multiple marginalized identities who have been co-opted and silenced. Embrace is working toward change, both internally and externally. We will show our commitment by evaluating our internal policies and practices including our hiring practices and strengthening our anti-racist education, examining our external partnerships and using our network to inform others, as well as developing an explicit framework on "centering Survivors of Color" to guide our organization. Embrace hopes that People of Color in our community will view our spaces as increasingly safe and inclusive. We urge more community members, colleagues, and agency partners who work in all systems – judicial, law enforcement, education, health care, housing, social services – throughout our community to acknowledge the recurrent problem of racial biases, reimagine their roles, explore community-led solutions, and commit to being anti-racist through their actions and words. Feel this moment in history, listen, and do not look away. We cannot rely only on the continuation of past efforts to achieve these goals.

Embrace supports the movement for Black Lives. We will hear their words, lift up their voices, and stand in the anti-violence values of our organization. We hope you will join us in breaking the cycle of trauma created by racism and violence.

“Lake Superior Bridge Builders”

“Lake Superior Bridge Builders” through Bethesda and Immanuel Lutheran Churches along with members of the surrounding local community have been educating themselves through webinars from the Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA, and West Texas Episcopal Diocese, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) and Rocky Mountain Immigration Service and others on sponsorship of an individual/family from a detention center on our southern border since the beginning of August.

They are currently in the process of sponsoring a Russian family from the Karnes Detention Center in Texas who are seeking asylum. The family Pavel (father), Alla (mother), Oleg (15 year-old son), and Victoria (2 year-old daughter) were released from the detention center Friday, October 16 to a motel in San Antonio. Sponsorship involves providing the family with an attorney, housing, transportation, education, clothing, language assistance, and healthcare. Accompaniment, or walking alongside, is the goal. They will be flying the family to and housing them in Bayfield. As of October 23 they are still trying desperately to acquire housing in Bayfield for the family. The family will very likely be here before November 1. Their journey from Russia has taken two years so far. The churches have miraculously acquired an immigration attorney in Minneapolis who speaks Russian and has served many Russian immigrants.

Needs at this time are financial support. A dedicated account has been established for “Lake Superior Bridge Builders” through Bethesda. If you feel called you may contribute your tax deductible donation payable to Bethesda, PO Box 724, Bayfield, WI 54814, earmarked “LSBB”. Plans are to set up a household with furniture and the like very soon. People who speak Russian are needed. For more information you can call Bethesda, 715-779-5611. Prayers are a real thing and at the top of our list of to dos:

Living with Courage and Hope,
Mary Meierotto
Bethesda/Immanuel Lutheran Churches
Sandra Brue
Co-chair of Lake Superior Bridge Builders

~ November 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends 10a-11a Worship	2 Office closed except by Appointment	3 Election Day Office closed except by Appointment 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	4 Office closed except by Appointment	5 Office closed except by Appointment	6 Office Closed Office closed except by Appointment	7
8 10a-11a Worship	9 Office closed except by Appointment 6p-7p Property Management Committee	10 Office closed except by Appointment 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	11 Veterans' Day Office closed except by Appointment 	12 Office closed except by Appointment	13 Office Closed Office closed except by Appointment	14
15 10a-11a Worship	16 Office closed except by Appointment 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	17 Office closed except by Appointment 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	18 Office closed except by Appointment	19 Great American Smokeout Office closed except by Appointment 9:30a-12p Lake Superior Conference Pastors (TBD)	20 Office Closed Office closed except by Appointment	21
22 10a-11a Worship	23 Office closed except by Appointment	24 Office closed except by Appointment 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	25 Office closed except by Appointment	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27 Office Closed Office closed except by Appointment	28
29 10a-11a Worship	30 Office closed except by Appointment	Notes:				

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, November 1 2020

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Revelation 7:9-17, *The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb*

Psalm 34:1-10, 22, *Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.*

1 John 3:1-3, *We are God's children*

Matthew 5:1-12, *Blessed are the poor in spirit*

Sunday, November 8 2020

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Prayer of the Day: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings

Amos 5:18-24, *Let justice roll down like waters.*

Psalm 70, *You are my helper and my deliver, O Lord, do not tarry.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, *The promise of the resurrection.*

Matthew 25:1-13, *The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids.*

Sunday, November 15 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Prayer of the Day: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, *The day of the Lord.*

Psalm 90:1-8[9-11]12, *So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*

1 Thessalonians 1:5:1-11, *Be alert for the day of the Lord.*

Matthew 25:14-30, *The story of the slaves entrusted with*

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks Continued

Sunday, November 22 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Prayer of the Day: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, *God will shepherd Israel.*

Psalms 95:1-7a, *We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.*

Ephesians 1:15-23, *The reign of Christ.*

Matthew 25:31-46, *The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats.*

Sunday, November 29, 2020

1st Sunday in Advent

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings

Isaiah 64 1-9, *Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19, *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9, *Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*

Mark 13:24-37, *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

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Superior, WI 54880

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November

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Superior, Wisconsin
715.394.3762
www.concordiasuperior.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

Online at: [facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior](https://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior)

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.

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