



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI

February 2021

Vol 40 No. 02

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

From Pastor Michelle

Blessings this February of 2021!

Today's picture is from October 31 of 2019, part of my month of wearing pink for breast cancer awareness that year. I chose it partly because it sort of matches the picture at the top of this page, chosen by Vanessa for this month.

Today, my hair is significantly longer, partly because of COVID restrictions that began nearly a year ago, partly because I've chosen not to have it cut for the time being.

Pink is not a color I normally choose. Some love it, I'm mostly annoyed by it—not the color itself, more how it's become associated particularly with femininity. Many say that pink is girly, in a way of prejudice...

For too long people have been told that they cannot do something because that particular activity is reserved for someone who's defined differently. For example, I recall a lawsuit from decades ago that had something to do with inequitable salaries. The defense was that the men's jobs were more dangerous than the jobs of the women in the office—but women were not allowed to work in those “more dangerous” jobs that receive higher remuneration.

My dad once told me that girls shouldn't whistle, so I didn't. Maybe lack of practice is part of why I do it so badly today!

When our daughter was a baby, my husband was the one who stayed home with her, doing the bulk of the things a mom traditionally did. Some guys cautioned him not to do too good a job, or their wives would expect them to do more around the house themselves!

Angie, a classmate of my sister, went to mechanic's school, the only girl in the class. She was also the only one to score 100% on the first test...

Recently, I was inspired to obtain a book from the library because some of my colleagues

were praising the movie that had been based on it. To my surprise, the wife of Jess, the main character, is a preacher in the Quaker tradition. The book was first copyright in 1940.

It's way past time that we define things as appropriate only to certain people, whether they be male or female, fair-skinned or gifted

with much melanin. Let us allow women and men to work as they will, and to wear what they wish, to dance with grace or create with skill. Let us celebrate the gifts brought by people who differ in various ways—and learn to love one another, and welcome one another without prejudice.

This month is the anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Valentine, said to have gone against the law in order to marry members of the military to those they loved. Let us work to make the laws in our country more free from prejudice; and let us also act accordingly. Let us learn to love our neighbors well, glorying in our differences because each of us is created by God. Let us meld differing skill sets with common purpose, that God's care for this creation be proclaimed with clarity, especially among those who have been marginalized, because we've labeled them different.

Galatians 3:28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.



Blessings! *Pastor Michelle*



PARISH NURSING NOTES...

We're already in February of our New Year! And that means it's American Heart Month. We've been so focused on the Covid-19 pandemic, that many of us have forgotten about any other health problems. And one American dies of heart disease every 39 seconds! And an American suffers a stroke every 40 seconds. Unlike with Covid-19, we can prevent these with our lifestyles.

Your heart has the ability to initiate impulses causing it to contract an average of 72 times every minute, 60 minutes every hour, 24 hours every day (waking and sleeping), 365 days every year, every year of your life for as long as you live. And how many years that will be depends largely on how well you take care of your heart! What other electrical system do you know of that will work that well for that length of time?!

Not only that, but it will also pump harder or faster depending on the need, based on activity, altitude, temperature, body conditions, or emotions. The blood vessels will expand or contract to enhance or decrease the blood flow depending on those factors. You don't have to think about it, or decide what or when it should make those adjustments. It happens automatically. How many pumps do you know of that will work that well for that long?

In addition, it has to coordinate four chambers and four sets of valves to keep the blood

flowing in the right direction, at the right rate. You know what it is like to coordinate an event for even a short period of time. How would you like having to, consciously, control that activity for that length of time?

God was a masterful engineer when He created us in His image. He created us to live a certain time span. So some functioning changes occur as we age. But He also gave us the freedom of choice. And the choices we make can speed up or accentuate those natural changes.

How can we show gratitude for, and take care of our heart? Proverbs 4:23 says, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." The greatest threats to our heart health---cigarette smoking, unhealthy diets, lack of exercise, obesity, hypertension, high blood cholesterol levels---result from our life style choices.

Our hearts would love for us to: have at least 30 minutes of physical exercise most days of the week; eat a diet of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and avoid saturated and trans fats; stop, or don't start smoking; get regular



medical check-ups; keep weight in healthy levels; develop healthy inter-personal and social relationships and activities, and maintain an active spiritual relationship with God.

Proverbs 14:30 says, "A peaceful heart gives life to the body." Help keep your heart peaceful, and show your gratitude to God, by taking good care of it.

Have a happy, healthy, peaceful, and thankful life.....Jean

Lent begins February 17

Our Lenten series this year is titled, “**Holy Vessels.**” The five ELCA congregations in Superior will be working together again this year, with each pastor taking one topic. What is different this year is that we will only be presenting them once, and links will be provided for all five congregations to access the same presentation each week.

Ash Wednesday will be according to each congregation, with its own pastor, and the topic will be “**Shattered.**” The text is Matthew 11:28-30.

February 24 will be led by Pastor Victor St. George of Zion Lutheran, and the topic is “**Treasure** (Physical Health).” Scripture texts are Matthew 8:1-4 and Matthew 8:16-17.

March 3 will be led by Pastor Michelle Rowell of Concordia Lutheran, and the topic is “**Safe Keeping** “Community/Economic Health.” The Scripture text is Matthew 8:5-13.

March 10 will be led by Pastor Sean Koos of Our Saviors Lutheran, and the topic is “**Stories** (Mental Health).” The Scripture text is Matthew 9:27-33.

March 17 will be led by Pastor Will Mowchan of Pilgrim Lutheran, and the topic is “**Different Pictures** (Intellectual Health).” The Scripture text is Matthew 9:18-26.

March 24 will be led by Pastor Bridget Jones of Bethel Lutheran, and the topic is “**Restoration** (Environmental Health).” The Scripture text is Matthew 8:18-27.

Maundy Thursday will be the responsibility of each congregation, and is expected to be “**Holy Wholly** (Integrated Health).” The Scripture text is Matthew 9:1-8.

Good Friday will be a combined effort by all five congregations, recorded separately and worked into a whole, focused on “**Healing.**” The text here is expected to be Matthew 10:1-8.

Please plan to join us online as we worship in community. Links will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website.

Flowers

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 memoriam.

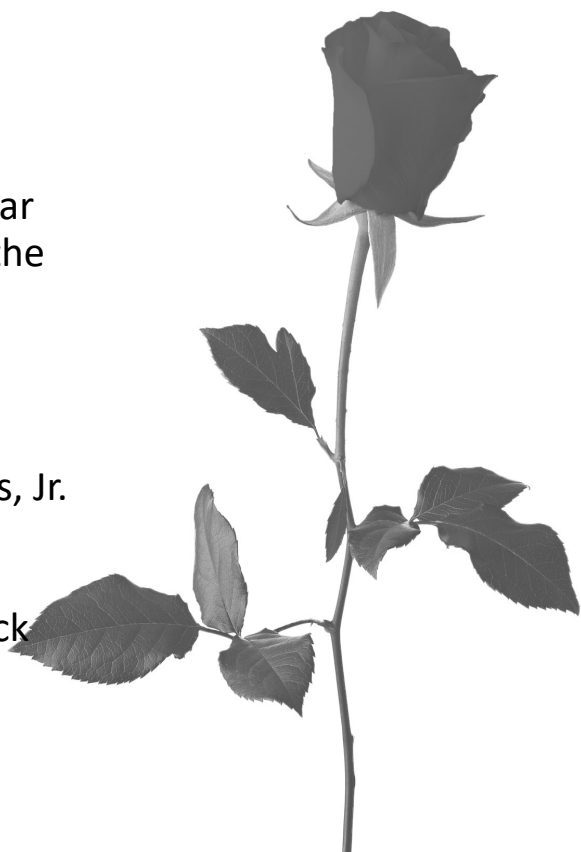
Given by: In Memory Of:

February 7th, Jeanne Downs William Downs, Jr.
and Billy Downs IV.

February 14th, Open

February 21st, Ann Novack Tony Novack and Rick
Nelson

February 28th, Frances Anunti, John Anunti
Debra Anunti Bovey
John Anunti



Walking Together “Justice League”

This year’s “Walking Together” event provided by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is centered around justice, and will be 100% virtual. Preregistration is required so that we can be sure to have enough room for all who wish to join online.

Please visit the synod webpage at nswwi.org, and click on the calendar of synod events. The detailed information was not yet live at the time of the printing of our newsletter, but is expected presently.

Blessings!

Memorials

In memory of Millie Score

Bus Fund

Given By: Ken & Debi Harmer
Gary & Carol Banker
Ann Marie Novack

General

Given By: Sue Martin
Edith Warner

Concordia Cares

Given By: Rolf & Eunice Grimsrud
Rhoda Pearthree
Audrey Kidd
Michael Lucci & Deb
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Akins
Altar Guild
Arlene Jacobson
Lawrence Jarvela
Lois & John Renoos
Donna & Richard Quist
Bill & Lois O'Neill
Betty J. Ursin
Dennis & Linda Aho
Shirleyann Brandser

Endowment Fund

Given By: Leslie & Ruth Swanson
Sharon Marcovich

In memory of Larry Quam

Organ Fund

Given By: Connie & Mike Nevin
Ron & Linda Stone
Tracy & Troy Poirior
Karen Peterson

In memory of Irene Parenteau

General Operations

Given By: Shirleyann Brandser

If anyone would like the corrugated poster board that was used to create our Organ Fundraiser sign, please let us know by February 15. After that we plan to dispose of it. The first to respond will receive it. (4'x8')



Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Prayer of the Day: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 40:1-31, *The Creator of all cares for the powerless*,
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, *The Lord heals the brokenhearted*.
1 Corinthians 9:16-23, *A servant for the sake of the gospel*.
Mark 1:29-39, *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*.

Sunday, February 14, 2021 Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12, *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*.
Psalm 50:1-6, *Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory*.
2 Corinthians 4:3-6, *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*.
Mark 9:2-9, *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*.

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday, Year B

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (cont.)

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks Continued

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday, (cont.)

Readings

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, *Return to the Lord, your God*

Psalms 51:1-17, *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.* (Ps. 51:1)

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 *Now is the day of salvation*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *The practice of faith*

Sunday, February 21, 2021 First Sunday in Lent

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world

Prayer of the Day Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings Genesis 9:8-17, *The rainbow, sign of God's covenant.*

Psalms 25:1-10, *Your paths O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.*

1 Peter 3:18-22, *Saved through water.*

Mark 1:9-15, *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days.*

Sunday, February 28, 2021 Second Sunday in Lent

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

Prayer of the Day O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, *God blesses Abraham and Sarah.*

Psalms 22: 23-31, *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.*

Romans 4:13-25. *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith.*

Mark 8:31-38, *The passion prediction.*

Boe Engebretson Financial Awards

Boe Engebretson Financial Award Applications for members who are full-time students at college or technical school will be **due April 1, 2021.**

NO EXCEPTIONS!

The application is available on our website, www.ConcordiaSuperior.org, or you can call the church and we can send one to you in the mail. (715) 394-3762

With the uncertainty around the ability of our students to accomplish service projects safely, we are offering an alternate activity for applicants. We will schedule four group meetings by ZOOM with the pastor. Each applicant wishing to use these to satisfy this year's service requirement must attend and participate in three of the four meetings.

ZOOM meetings are scheduled for:

Saturday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m.

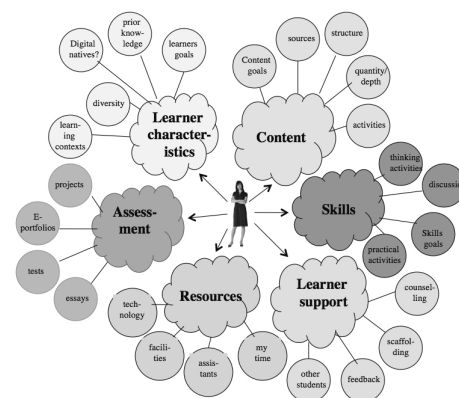
Sunday, February 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 13 at 11:a.m.

Sunday, March 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Email Pastor Michelle at least a day ahead of time to be sure to receive the ZOOM Invitation.

rowell.michelle.r@usa.net



Concordia Lutheran Council and Membership



Council met long enough after the Annual meeting to determine current officers, but has not yet determined committee relationships. Caleb Ulen is the only new member elected, according to an understanding from last year. No other new members were elected for 2021.

President	Kris Hanson 715-977-1260
Vice President	Michael Olson 715-398-0343
Secretary	Ken Harmer 218-390-8218
Treasurer	Doug Score 218-260-0657

Matt Ketola
715-363-2567
Mark Thompson
715-392-3166
Caleb Ulen

If you are interested in serving on the council, please leave a message at the office, and we will bring it up at our first meeting on February 7th.

~ February 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Groundhog Day 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	3 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 Super Bowl 10a-11a Worship	8 6p-7p Property Management Committee 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee by ZOOM	9 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	10 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 Valentine's Day 10a-11a Worship	15 Presidents Day 	16 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	17 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class <i>Ash Wednesday</i>  <i>Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.</i> ECCLESIASTES 3:20	18 9:30a-12p Lake Superior Conference Pastors (TBD)	19 Office Closed	20
21 10a-11a Worship	22	23 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	24 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 10a-11a Worship	Notes:					

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ELCA website: www.elca.org

Luther Point Bible Camp website:

www.lutherpoint.org

Resource Center website:

www.synodresourcecenter.org

Michelle R. Rowell, Pastor
Beth Sobczak, Keyboards
Dr. Héctor Landa, Keyboards
Vanessa Johnson, Office Manager
Jean Riedasch, Parish Nurse
David Eastman, Custodian
Matt Eastman, Technologies

Contributors: Many
Assembly/mailling: Our faithful volunteers

The Concordian

January

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Church
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715.394.3762
www.concordiasuperior.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

Online at: facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior

Limited in-person worship by reservation

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 office.