



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI March 2021 Vol 40 No. 03

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

From Pastor Michelle

It's March of 2021. They say that hope springs eternal, but today we are living in a season of lament. This entire month is within the season of Lent, as we ponder the journey of Jesus toward the cross of his crucifixion, and we might wonder what life today has to do with his suffering some two centuries ago.

Is the suffering of people today comparable to that of Jesus? Is the darkness that marks our lives in any way similar to the darkness of the days when people travelled mostly by foot, and only the most wealthy had access to carriages or wagons?

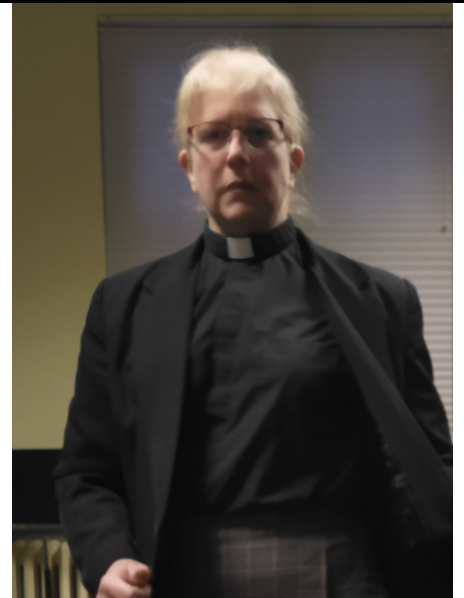
I read an article recently about a man who'd committed a crime spree (with a bunch of friends) that resulted in the deaths of two people when he was 15 years old. Eisenhower was president at the time, and he and his friends received life sentences without the possibility of parole. In more recent years, this kind of sentence has been considered inappropriate for juveniles. Yet this man was not interested in parole. If he was to be “out,” he wanted to be able to cross state lines in order to visit his only surviving sibling, who is ailing herself. (He himself is remarkably healthy!)

In February of 2021, Joe Ligon became a free man, living in a home that cares for elderly people (he's 83), and hoping to do some work similar to what he was good at in prison, pushing a broom. I'm hoping that things go well for him.

I'm sure that some among us may say that there is no room for mercy when murder is involved, and that all who participate should be locked up for life, or executed. I'm not arguing that issue today. Instead, I want to speak of hope, particularly hope when there seems to be none.

Good Friday will be in April, but in April I will likely be focusing on Easter, so we'll address Good Friday with our Lenten focus this month.

Imagine what it was like for the disciples, for those who followed Jesus and benefited at his side from his teachings, his miracles, and his healings. The one in whom they'd come to hope as the solution to all their sufferings, the one they'd come to believe would overthrow the foreign powers that ruled over Israel, had died of government execution. He had not overthrown Rome. He had not come down from the cross. He had not called down from heaven a host of powerful warriors to wield death and destruction over his enemies. Instead, he had died,



and his body lay in a borrowed tomb, without even the proper preparations for burial.

Could they hope? Could they see any promise? Could they remember the words of resurrection Jesus had spoken so often to ears that seemed deaf to anything other than their own expectations?

Joe Ligon continued to hope for freedom, even when he believed it beyond reach.

Did the disciples hope, or had they moved on to despair?

Today, I pray that any despair gives way to hope, for God does not abandon us, even when Jesus lay in the tomb; even when people who should have had longer lives continue to die. Let your life be lifted with the hope that is ours in a savior who is not overcome, even by death.

Peace! Pastor Michelle



PARISH NURSING NOTES...

This month we're looking at, and experiencing, Lent. And people often focus on what food they have "given up" for Lent. And that is fine. But there are other considerations too. Lent is a particularly good time to remind ourselves that our bodies and spirits are intimately connected. And our bodies need more than food to flourish. They also need some exercise. And one good way to exercise is walking. So Lent is a good time to involve walking as well.

Some of the spiritual benefits are time for prayer, marveling in the body God created, giving thanks for the world God created, sharing time with a companion walker, a sense of stewardship for God's gift of life. It is a time to get away from the demands of our daily routines, and to reflect and pray, and be near to God.

A walking program has physical benefits while also drawing us closer to God by adding an intentional reflective element. Stepping away (literally) from the demands of our daily routines to walk, reflect, and pray reminds us that God created us and wants to be near to us.

I love walking outside, in nature, in the beauty of God's creation. But walking outside in winter, especially in our part of the country, tends to

make me focus more on the cold temperature and the ice on the ground. But walking can be done indoors as well. And that is one of the benefits of living at New Perspectives. There are many carpeted hallways, on three floors, with railings on each side, to safely walk in comfort—without having to bundle up in coats and boots and scarves! And you always meet others to stop and exchange a few words with, and meet new people.

I recommend starting with a brief prayer, and then starting on your way. Along the way, you can continue to offer short prayers, of thankfulness and gratitude, or asking for guidance. We always stop at the end of each hall to look out the windows, and marvel at the beauty and activity we see. It's not the beautiful trees and river we would see at our house. But it is always interesting.

Walking was a main form of transportation during Biblical times, and the Bible is full of stories of the journeys. It has been



calculated that Jesus walked the equivalent of the circumference of the world based only on the journeys that are recorded in the Bible. That doesn't include all the miles He put on as a child growing up, or around the town in His adult years. We don't even come close to that!

Sacrificing a food you enjoy can help you feel connected to God during Lent. But so can a walk filled with spiritual reflections. Try it! Follow what is meaningful and works for you! *"In God we live and move and have our being."* (Acts 17:28).

Stay healthy, happy, prayerful, and active... and wear a mask!.....Jean

Lent began February 17

Our Lenten series is led this year by the five pastors of the ELCA congregations in Superior, Wisconsin. February 24 was led by Pastor Victor St. George from Zion. March 3 will be led by Pastor Michelle Rowell of Concordia. March 10 will be led by Pastor Sean Koos of Our Saviors. March 17 will be led by Pastor Will Mowchan of Pilgrim. March 24 will be led by Pastor Bridget Jones of Bethel Lutheran.

We will do our best to have each service accessible on our FaceBook page at noon on the scheduled day. Some days may be later (depending on when we receive the appropriate links).

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



Gathering leadership continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and how it may impact the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble. Many of those impacts remain unknown this far in advance of the event dates. We plan to provide an update on the Gathering's viability later this summer (before registration opens) and again in late November or early December. We will continue sharing updates through Gathering communication as we learn more about the projected state of the virus in July 2022. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these details with an ever-changing virus.

Memorials

In memory of Millie Score

Concordia Cares

Given By: Patricia Luder
Ada Ledin

Bus Fund

Given By: Jan & Bill Lippitt

Sunday School

Given By: Richard Wnek

In memory of Joanne Johnson

Organ Fund

Given By: Richard & Kathryn Cochrane

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.

	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory Of:</u>
March 7	Loved Ones	Mike & Joyce Olson
March 14	Ken & Debi Harmer Sue & Terry Martin & Families	Roy & Jeane Grimstad
March 21	Gary & Carol Banker	Roger & Margaret Erickson
March 28	Linda & Dennis Aho Arlene Jacobson	Loved Ones



2020 Concordia Cares Donations

Designated earnings from the Concordia Lutheran Church investment fund provide donations to groups within Douglas County through the Concordia Cares Board. This year, the pandemic brought many changes to our daily lives. In addition to funding programs for youth, we designated funds to help with food and lodging for Superior families.

Sue Martin/Rummage Sale Shopping	Used winter wear and boots for Superior youth	\$ 400.00
Yearbooks for Superior High Students	Yearbooks for a group of special needs graduates	400.00
Head Start Center Number II	Gift of a book for each child in Head Start Center II (est. 50 books)	250.00
Superior Fire Dept.	Toys for Teens/Toys for Tots	2000.00
Mentor Superior	To pay for a mental health professional to advise mentors	3000.00
Faith United Methodist Food Bank	Expenses to provide meat to FUM Food Bank participants	2000.00
Second Harvest Food Bank*	Food to five centers in Douglas County plus three Backpack prog.	2000.00
Salvation Army	For emergency housing	2000.00
Superior Fire Dept.	Fire safety program to schools	110.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 12,160.00

** qualified for matching funds from the Joan M. Wismer grant.*

Gifts and memorials to the Concordia Cares fund are greatly appreciated.



Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, March 7, 2021 Third Sunday in Lent

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Exodus 20:1-17, *The commandments are given at Sinai*
Psalm 19, *The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes*
1 Corinthians 1:18-25, *Christ crucified, the wisdom of God*
John 2:13-22, *The cleansing of the temple*

Sunday, March 14, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Lent

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Prayer of the Day: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Numbers 21:4-9 *The lifting up of the serpent*
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, *You deliver your people from their distress*
Ephesians 2:1-10, *Saved by grace through faith for good works*
John 3:14-21, *The lifting up of the Son of Man*

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks Continued

Sunday, March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Lent

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world

Prayer of the Day O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34, *A new covenant written on the heart*

Psalms 51:1-12, *Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

Hebrews 5:5-10, *Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation.*

John 12:20-33, *The grain of wheat dying in the earth*

Sunday, March 28, 2021 Palm/Passion Sunday

This week, the center of the church’s year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God’s salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God’s astonishing work.

Prayer of the Day Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Mark 11:1-11 *Jesus enters Jerusalem*

Isaiah 50:4-9a, *The servant of the Lord submits to suffering*

Psalms 31:9-16 *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*

Philippians 2:5-11 *Humbled to the point of death on a cross.*

Mark 14:1-15:47 *The passion of the Lord*

Limited In-Person Worship

is available by reservation each Sunday. (Bus *may* be available.)

One household may be seated at each labeled position on the map.

Call the church at 715-394-3762.

If there is no answer, leave a message with a phone number.

Tell us how many people to expect for your household

Tell us how many will participate in communion

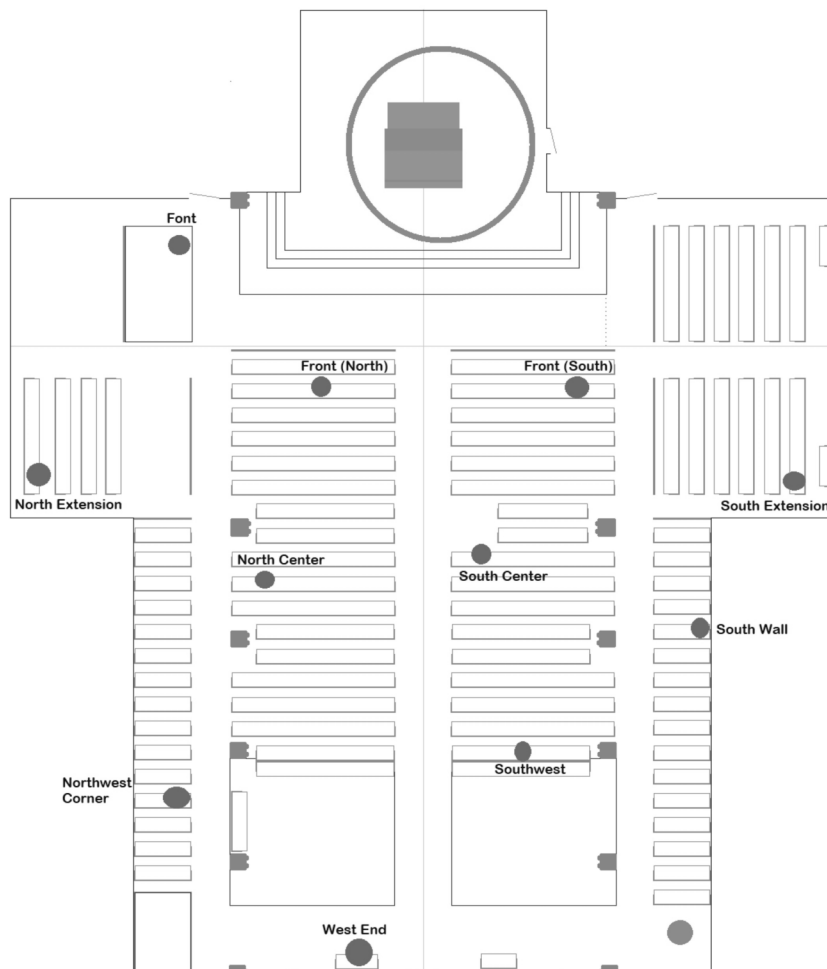
(is juice needed instead of wine?).

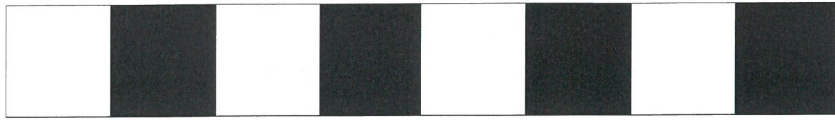
Tell us your requested space.

If the reservations for that Sunday are already filled, we will call to arrange for a different Sunday.

If your requested seating space is not available, we will call to suggest a different space that is available.

Please call any time during the week, or by 10 a.m. on Saturday.





Drive Thru Diner
Zion Lutheran Church
Featuring a Pulled Pork Dinner

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Starting at 2:00 pm-until we run out of food!

No pre-orders or reservations-
first come, first served.

Menu:

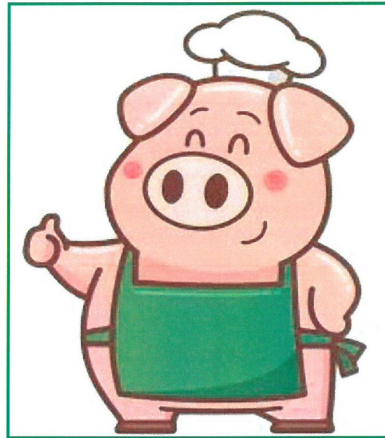
Pulled Pork on a bun
Cole Slaw
Au Gratin potatoes
Applesauce and Brownie

Simply pull into the parking lot
behind the church and you'll be
guided to your dinner!

Fundraiser for church ministries and
outreach.

FREE WILL OFFERINGS ACCEPTED

Zion Lutheran Church ELCA
2202 East Second Street
Superior, WI 715 398-3663



St. Anthony's
Annual Lenten Fish Dinner

- Fridays thru April 2nd
from 4-6 pm.
- Meal includes:
Baked fish, baked potato, coleslaw, vegetable,
pickled beets, roll, and dessert.
- Cost: \$10.00 Adult, \$5.00 Student (age 12 and
under), Preschool is free.
- Local deliveries are available by calling
715-398-3261 Monday through Friday each week.



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.

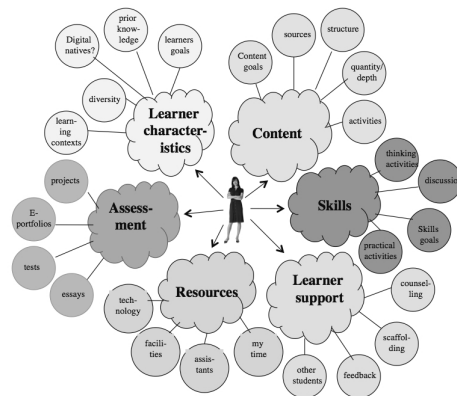
ZOOM meetings are scheduled for:

Saturday, 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.

~ March 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	3 12:00 Lenten Worship Online 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class by ZOOM	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 10a-11a Worship 11:15a Council Meeting (by ZOOM)	8 Int'l. Women's Day 6p-7p Property Management Committee	9 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	10 12:00 Lenten Worship Online 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class by ZOOM	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 Daylight Saving Begins 10a-11a Worship 2:00p Zion's Drive-Thru Diner Event begins 	15 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	16 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	17 Saint Patrick's Day 12:00 Lenten Worship Online 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class by ZOOM 	18 9:30a-12p Lake Superior Conference Pastors (TBD)	19 Office Closed	20 Spring Begins
21 10a-11a Worship	22	23 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	24 World Tuberculosis Day 12:00 Lenten Worship Online 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class by ZOOM 6:30p Concordia Cares Committee (online)	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 10a-11a Worship	29	30 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 10:30a-11:30a Pastor's Text Study (Pilgrim)	31 1p-2p Concordia Confirmation Class by ZOOM	Notes:		

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Superior, WI 54880

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Websites:

Church website: www.concordiasuperior.org

Synod website: www.nswi.org

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

March

Vol. 40 No. 03 A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran
Church

Superior, Wisconsin

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.