



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI December 2021 Vol 42 No. 12

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

From the Pastor:

May I wish you a Merry Christmas in this writing for December’s newsletter? Through the years, I’ve had some faithful Christians balk against this wish, because somehow they attributed the “merry” with some kind of drunken debauchery, rather than the original meaning of the term, which was to cause happiness, to be pleasant or delightful. These would sternly grip my hand on the way out of worship, firmly emphasizing, a greeting of “*Blessed* Christmas,” or “*Happy* Christmas.” I would, of course, respond with the same wish to them, even if I had already wished them a “Merry Christmas,” as is custom for many in this country. To be fair, “Merry” is often associated today with something not quite in keeping with the joys of our loving God who came among us as one of us.

What happens when we continue to use words to mean something that the word no longer means in today’s language?

I believe that we can preserve some of the “merry” of Christmas only if we take care to us it generously, without reserving it for the groups of people most likely to pursue the meaning that

bothers the faithful people I mentioned earlier.

Too, it might be good for us to remember that the kind of “merry” that requires the use of substances that alter the consciousness generally is more likely to foster depression, the opposite of merriment...

As I write this article, Wisconsin has become rated (according to MSNBC) as the state with the fifth highest per capita rate of Covid19... (Our neighboring states of Minnesota and Michigan were numbers 1 and 2.)

Can this be over yet? Can we go back more to the way things were before? Don’t our vaccinations mean that we should be able to live like this never happened?

Our council has considered changes in the masking policy for the congregation, but news like this has kept us offering a place for the most vulnerable to meet in person in the same room for worship, at least up to the point of this writing. (Council meets again the first Sunday in December.) Our hospitals are full, and this is not the time to quit.

So how does one have a merry Christmas in a time that holds conflicting opinions and varied safety practices and protocols? We do so day by



day.

Everything carries risk, and we live our lives weighing the risks from which we choose. Jesus was born into a time with high risks and into a community waiting but not really expecting him to come as he did. Even with the Isaiah text promising a child born who would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, the people expected something other than the baby born of Mary and protected by Joseph with a flight into Egypt.

So let us weigh the ways we live, that we may share the good news of God’s grace and mercy in Jesus with all people in all circumstances. Let us be merry in the ways that show joy and promise, for God is one with us, and leads us always... In Jesus’ name.

Pastor Michelle R. Rowell



PARISH NURSING NOTES

Every food and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.. ”
(James 1:17 NIV)

I recently read an interesting item in a Parish Nurse Newsletter I received. A harried woman and her children were ending their day of holiday shopping. She was heard muttering that whoever created Christmas should be strung up and shot. A bystander quietly replied, “Someone has already crucified him.”

As I’m writing this before Thanksgiving, I haven’t yet started to panic about Christmas, but I am getting the house and pantry ready for Thanksgiving. I have to make my son’s favorite pecan pie, and Gramma Mae’s favorite pumpkin pie (even though she is no longer here to eat it.) The right table cloth and napkins have to be ready for the table, along with the centerpiece – even though we always have to remove it to make room for the turkey platter.

As the holidays approach, we have to pause and remember that what we should really be

celebrating: the hectic, stress-laden, financially-burden holiday season, or the gift of God’s Son? Advent is a time for hope, joy, love and family, not mounds of gifts, chaotic rounds of parties, or copious amounts of food.

Consider what has real meaning to you. Is it the gathering of the family with all the shared memories, bringing the purchased toys to the fire station for children who might not get any otherwise, the Christmas pageant at Church? I still remember how real the characters in the pageant seemed to me, how proud I was when I was old enough to participate, and how proud I was watching my children participate.

“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’”
(Acts 20:35 NLT)

Everyone likes to give gifts at Christmas because it feels good to make dreams come true, but joyful giving does not mean you have to ruin your credit rating or jeopardize your ability to pay utilities. You can trim your gift-giving list, stick to a budget, buy on sale, or make your gifts. The most expensive gift is not always the best one. I am sure every family has a memory of a child playing with the gift box while the gift lies ignored, and not all gifts are material. Sharing your time with others is a gift that can be given all year round. Offering a service or a ride is greatly appreciated by someone who has difficulties accomplishing those things on their own. Watching a DVD or eating a meal is much

more fun with someone else rather than by yourself.

“You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27 NRSV)

From this verse, most people focus on the parts about loving God and loving your neighbor. Another important part often overlooked is loving yourself. This holiday season, remember that loving yourself is one good way to reduce the usual stress. Give yourself a gift: take a walk outside and smell the fresh air; listen to music – whatever type makes you happy; find some solitude; relish the seasonal scents of evergreens, cinnamon, and peppermint with candles or bath salts; sip a cup of hot apple cider or a glass of wine; call a friend you haven’t seen in a while; laugh over remembered family stories and antics of children and grandchildren; and hug everyone you meet.

This holiday season, remember the spirit of Christmas, share your presence with others, reduce your stress, and create meaningful traditions that demonstrate God’s love.....Jean

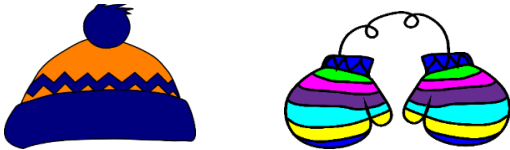


HAT AND MITTEN TREE

Time to get out those knitting needles and crochet hooks! Concordia Cares Committee will be collecting hats and mittens for the hat & mitten tree in December. (Mittens do not have to be waterproof).

Yarn is available in the Church Office for anyone needing yarn to knit or crochet hats for the hat and mitten tree. Thanks to Sue Hagen LePage for donating the yarn.

Our goal is to donate 100 hats to the local Head Start.



OPEN SUNDAYS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IN 2022

Here is a list of open Sundays for folks to consider reserving altar flowers in memory of loved ones. The cost of the flowers is \$40 per Sunday. Please call the Church Office to let us know if you want to sign up for any of these dates.

January 2, 16, 30

February 13

March 20

May 8, 22

June 5, 26

July 31

August 14

September 4

October 23, 30

November 13

December 11

LOOK AT THIS

(More Pictures in addition to last month)

We filled the bus with winter coats, snow pants, boots and hats for Family Forum. Below are pictures of them being ready for distribution to families at Family Forum.



Any Committees that have Reports for the Annual Report must be given to the Church Office on or before December 15, 2021.

PARISH NURSING ANNOUNCEMENT

The first Sunday of the Month the Parish Nursing Staff will be checking blood pressures in the Parish Nurse's Office before morning worship from 9-10:00 a.m.



Moving Forward

Seating for worship is distanced, and we are continuing to require masks in the worship space until further notice

UWS Winter Concert
"Season of Song"
at Concordia,
December 7,
7:30 pm.
\$10 admission

Christmas Eve Worship
Friday, December 24,

5:00 p.m.

We will follow our regular practice of masking and seating where there are cushions on the pews.

At our annual meeting in January, we will open discussion for ideas on moving forward as Lutherans in Superior, and how and whether we might be willing to work with other area congregations.



Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, December 5, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God"

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Malachi 3:1-4 *My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

Luke 1:68-79, *In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us*

Philippians 1:3-11, *A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ*

Luke 3:1-6, *Prepare the way of the Lord*

Sunday, December 12, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20, *Rejoice the Lord is in your midst*

Isaiah 12:2-6 *In the midst is the Holy One of Israel*

Philippians 4:4-7 *Rejoice, the Lord is near*

Luke 3:7-18, *One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire*

Sunday, December 19, 4th Sunday of Advent

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Prayer of the Day . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Micah 5:2-5a, *From Bethlehem comes a ruler*

Psalms 80 *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved*

Hebrews 10:5-10, *I have come to do your will*

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55], *Blessed are you among women/My soul magnifies the Lord.*

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prayer of the Day Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. . Amen

Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7 *Light shines: a child is born for us*
Psalm 96 *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad*
Titus 2:11-14-, *The grace of God has appeared*
Luke 21:1-14 [15-20], *God with us*

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!.

Prayer of the Day All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth 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

Isaiah 62:6-12 *God comes to restore the people*
Psalm 97 *Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart*
Titus 3:4-7 *Saved through water and the Spirit*
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20, *The birth of the Messiah revealed to sheperds*

Sunday, December 26, First Sunday of Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

Prayer of the Day Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, *The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people*
Psalm 148 *The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven*
Colossians 3:12-17-, *Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts*
Luke 2:41-52, *The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor*

~ December 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	2 2:30p-7p Music Lessons 5:30p-8:30p Boy Scouts using Library	3	4
5 10a-11a Worship 11:15a-12:15p Council Meeting	6 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons 7p-8p Boy Scouts	7 UWS Concert 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study ((varies)) 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	8 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	9 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	10	11
12 10a-11a Worship 11a-12p Youth & Family Committee Meeting	13 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons 6p-7p Property Management Committee	14 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study ((varies)) 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	15 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	16 9:30a-12:30p Lake Superior Conference Pastors (Zion Lutheran, Superior) 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	17	18
19 10a-11a Worship	20 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee 7p-8p Boy Scouts	21 Winter Solstice 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study ((varies)) 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	22 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	23 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas
26 10a-11a Worship	27 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons	28 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study ((varies)) 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	29 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	30 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	31	Notes:

Looking for Volunteers to perform at the Christmas Eve Service which is Friday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. Any ages welcome to perform. Please call or email the Church Office to let us know what sacred song you will be performing (either singing, playing an instrument, or both.)



Christmas Music Opportunity!



If you would like to add to the festivity of worship

on Christmas Eve

by providing a piece of special Christmas Music,
please contact the office with the title of your piece,
and what instrument(s) will be used.

Please let us know by the end of the day
on **Wednesday, December 15**
so that all the musical offerings
can be well-placed within the worship service.





Altar Flowers for December

December 5

In memory of William Lindstrom by Carol Lindstrom and family

December 12

Altar Guild

December 19

In memory of Ralph & Shirley Nelson by Ann Novack

December 26

In memory Lorraine Peterson by Tom & Nancy O'Neill, Keegan & Ali, Kali & Jordan

Serving in December

Ushers

December 5

Team II Eric Sewall

December 12

Team I Ken Harmer

December 19

Team III Joyce Olson

December 24

Team II Eric Sewall

December 26

Team I Ken Harmer

Bus Driver

December 5

Brett Quist

December 12

Ken Harmer

December 19

Kris Hanson

December 24

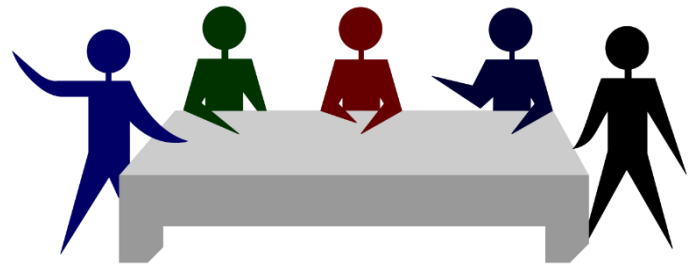
Brett Quist

December 26

Pete Quist

Financial Assistants

Eric Sewall & Brett Quist



Your Church Council members, working together with you in ministry:

Council met long enough after the Annual meeting to determine current officers, but has not yet determined committee relationships. Kaleb Ullan 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
Kaleb Ullan	

**We have distanced seating in Church.
Please sit where pew cushions are.**



Concordia Lutheran Church
1708 John Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

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The Concordian is published monthly since 1981 by:

Concordia Lutheran Church
1708 John Avenue Superior, WI 54880
(715) 394-3762 – Office
(Formerly Concordia Churchman 1961-1981)

e-mail:

Pastor Michelle: rowell.michelle.r@usa.net
Church Office: concordiasuperior@gmail.com

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
Carol Lindegren, Office Manager
Jean Riedasch, Parish Nurse
David Eastman, Custodian
Matthew Eastman, Technologies

Contributors: Many
Assembly/mailling: Our faithful volunteers

The Concordian

December

Vol. 42 No. 12

A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church
Superior, Wisconsin
715.394.3762

www.concordiasuperior.org

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.

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

Online at: facebook.com/ConcordiaSuperior
Distanced in-person worship now available!

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.