



# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI

February 2022

Vol 43 No. 2

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

## *From the Pastor:*

Greetings in the name of Jesus, the anointed one of God.

February is considered by many to be the month of love. What does that mean for us as Christian people, as those who have been called by the Holy Spirit to believe in the triune God made known to us most especially in Jesus Christ? Let's see if we can pose an answer to that question, through taking a somewhat roundabout route to get there!

I believe most of us (if not all of us) have heard the quote from Rene Descartes in his Discourse on Method looking for an unalterable foundation. The quote is this:

**I think, therefore I am.**

It is a good base from which to build, but where does one go from there?

One might consider: **I am, therefore... what?** Carrying this just a bit further: **I am of Christ, therefore... what?**

What is our particular calling as people of Christ? In this, we do have the base of all that is expected with Jesus' answer to the question posed him in the gospels concerning which is the greatest law. His answer was two-fold, and quite simple: **Love God with all that you are, and love your neighbor as yourself.**

One of the gospels encourages us to explore this

further, with another question posed to Jesus: Who is my neighbor? Jesus then tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the one who is neighbor in the story is the one least likely to be described as neighbor by any considering themselves to be a faithful Jew: the Samaritan!

Why were the Samaritan people considered by the Jews to be those undeserving of love?

Perhaps over-simplifying the answer to that is to say that Jews and Samaritans hated each other because each saw the other as having been unfaithful. Markers of the unfaithfulness each saw in the other side were probably as varied as the ways we judge others to have been unfaithful the ways we see them to be sinners.

At times, judgements are cast not because of actions, but due to race, and sometimes due to ethnicity... I have heard stories of Norwegians looking down their noses at others who were from “the wrong parts of Norway.” (That translates to other countries as well...)

How do we move past history like that? Does this history help to explain why there are five different ELCA congregations in Superior? (There were more...)

The council has been exploring options of working together with these other ELCA congregations, and this issue was



raised also at our annual meeting. However, this kind of exploration cannot be done by council alone. If you are interested in working with a group to explore this on behalf of Concordia, please contact the church office or one of our council members. The phone number at the church office is **(715) 394-3762**, Church email is **ConcordiaSuperior@gmail.com**

We need to look further (and closer) than just the other ELCA congregations, however, if we are truly to love our neighbor as ourselves. What expectations are good and necessary for community building? How does “stranger danger” affect our ability to be welcoming and loving of our neighbors?

In this “Month of Love” let us find ways to love those we are least likely to consider to be our neighbors—as Jesus encourages!

Pastor Michelle



## PARISH NURSING NOTES

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

How “hardy” is your faith? Do you just go to church on Sunday mornings, or do you really **exercise** your faith? Do you pray only in times of crisis, or do you talk with God on a regular basis? When you pray, do you ask for things you want, or for “**God’s will**” to be done? What do you **do** with your faith? Do you help others in need and pray for them? And what difference does it make?

Many studies are providing evidence that **health of the spirit can indeed make a difference in the health of the body**. Research found that people with more religious involvement were 30% more likely to live longer than those who were less involved. In a study of patients who had undergone open-heart surgery, those who reported they drew strength and comfort from religion had only a third the risk of dying within 6 months of surgery as those who didn’t. And Religious people may be more health to start with! In another study of 4000 people over age 65, people who attended services at least once a week – or frequently prayed, or studied the Bible at least once a day – had lower blood pressures than those who weren’t as religiously active.

Why is this? There are several theories. Religious people often have healthier lifestyles and thus are better protected against chronic diseases. They are more likely to treat their

bodies as temples and thus care for them and comply with prescribed treatments. Religious people generally have lower stress levels resulting from a greater sense of well-being, higher life satisfaction, lower anxiety, and better coping ability. Organized religion increases one’s social circle, providing emotional support, strong friendships and a sense of purpose. And a religious tradition can help people handle the unexpected upsets that life often brings. Religious beliefs help you understand and interpret negative life situations. They help you to cope, get on with life, and grow with the experience. “**We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at many times, we are never destroyed.**” (II Corinthians 4:8-9)

So how hardy is your faith? Assess it by answering these questions:

How would you describe your **overall health**?

How does your **faith help you care for your body**, influence your thinking, and affect your relationships?

Are you generally able to **trust God** to provide for your needs, or are you more often in an anxious state?

Are you able to see **change as an opportunity** and not primarily as a loss?

Can you recall a time in which **difficulties increase your awareness of Christ’s presence** in your life?

What **support do you gain from other Christians** in everyday life?

On a regular basis, what activities do you do to **nourish your faith and relationship with God**?

Faith is indeed our foundation in standing strong through the storms of life. So exercise your faith as well as your body! And stay healthy, happy, and strong.....Jean  
(My phone number has changed: 715-900-2339)

## 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.

March 20  
May 8, 22  
June 5, 26  
July 3, 31  
August 14  
September 4  
October 23, 30  
November 13  
December 11



If you are interested in working with a **group to explore cooperation with the other ELCA congregations in Superior** on behalf of Concordia, please contact the church office or one of our council members. The phone number at the church office is **(715) 394-3762**, Church email is **ConcordiaSuperior@gmail.com**



## Worship & Music

Worship & Music Committee had discussions on having more contemporary music in our services. We decided to let members of the congregation pick songs that they would like to hear/sing. There are many styles of music that are Christian based, including country, pop, gospel, blues, to name a few. The songs do not have to be in our hymnals (but we do need access to the music). The factor of copyright infringement may come into play, so some songs we may not be able to use legally. Anyone interested in picking some of your favorite songs, let the Worship & Music Committee members know, or the office, and we will do our best to get them into a service.

Pete Quist  
Worship & Music Chairperson

## 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.



# Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

## Sunday, February 6, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

**Prayer of the Day:** Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

### Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] *Isaiah says, Here am I; send me*  
Psalm 138, *I will bow down toward your holy temple*  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, *I am the least of the apostles*  
Luke 5:1-11 *Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people*

## Sunday, February 13, 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

**Prayer of the Day:** Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

### Readings

Jeremiah 17:5-10, *Blessed are those who trust the Lord, they are like trees by water*  
Psalm 1: *They are like trees planted by streams of water*  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 *Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died*  
Luke 6:17-26 *Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full*

## Sunday, February 20, 7th Sunday After Epiphany

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

**Prayer of the Day** O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### Readings

Genesis 45:3-11, 15, *Joseph forgives his brothers*  
Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40 *The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace,*  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 *The mystery of the resurrection of the body*  
Luke 6:27-38 *Love your enemies.*

## Sunday, February 27, Last Sunday of Epiphany

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

**Prayer of the Day** Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### Readings

Exodus 34:29-35 *Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone*

Psalms 99 *Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill*

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, *With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed*

Luke 9:28-36[37-43a] *Jesus is transfigured on the mountain*

### The following Memorials have been received in the Church Office in Memory of Leroy Eliason



#### Bus Fund:

Janice Lippitt

#### Property & Management

Donald & Jo Anne Krause

Rolf & Eunice Grimsrud

Rhoda Pearthree

Dan & Carol Gucinski

Ralph & Mary Johnson

Shirley Brandser

Ann Novack

Mark Thompson

Sue Martin

Eric Arneson

Bill & Lois O'Neill

Mike & Joyce Olson

Ken & Deb Harmer

Jean & Richard Riedasch

~ February 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day 10a-11a Altar Guild 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	<b>3</b> 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Super Bowl 10a-11a Worship	<b>7</b> 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons	<b>8</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	<b>9</b> 1:30p Pastor at Harmony House 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	<b>10</b> 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10a-11a Worship	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons (No Property Management Committee meeting this month)	<b>15</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	<b>16</b> 1p-2p 1:00 Pastor at Douglas County Health meeting 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	<b>17</b> 2:30p-7p Music Lessons 6:30p-9:30p Lake Superior Conference Pastors (Peace Lutheran\, Poplar)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10a-11a Worship	<b>21</b> Presidents Day 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	<b>22</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 11a-12p Pastor's Text Study 3p-7:30p Music Lessons	<b>23</b> 3:30p-7:30p Music Lessons 4p-5:30p Piano Lessons 4:15p-5:15p Confirmation Class	<b>24</b> 2:30p-7p Music Lessons	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10a-11a Worship	<b>28</b> 4:15p-6p Piano Lessons	<b>Notes:</b>				





## Altar Flowers for February

February 6

In memory of William Downs, Jr & Billy Downs IV by Jeanne Downs

February 13

In memory of Jane Bentley by Robert Bentley

February 20

In memory of Tony Novack & Rich Nelson by Ann Novack

February 27

Altar Guild

## Serving in February

### **Ushers**

February 6

Team III Joyce Olson

February 13

Team I Ken Harmer

February 20

Team II Eric Sewall

February 27

Team III Joyce Olson

### **Bus Driver**

February 6

Kris Hanson

February 13

Ken Harmer

February 20

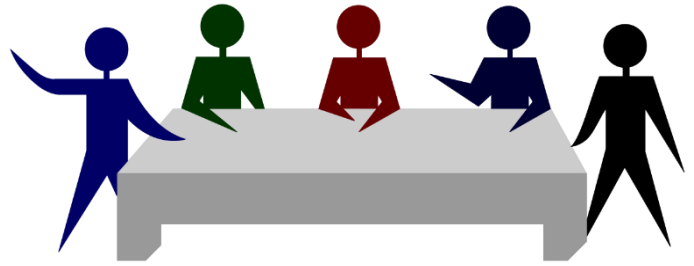
Brett Quist

February 27

Pete Quist

### **Financial Assistants**

Kris Hanson &



**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. No other new members were elected for 2022.

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

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



Concordia Lutheran Church  
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Superior, WI 54880

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***The Concordian is published monthly since 1981 by:***

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Synod website: [www.nswi.org](http://www.nswi.org)  
ELCA website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
Luther Point Bible Camp website: [www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org)  
Resource Center website: [www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://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

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February

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715.394.3762

[www.concordiasuperior.org](http://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](https://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.