



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI January 2023 Vol 44 No. 1

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

From the Pastor:

Grace to you and peace.

As I was typing this message, I was tempted to stop after the first sentence, because how can one improve on grace and peace?

But there are different ways of experiencing grace and peace, and too often, people experience neither one. Instead, they live in the shadow of judgment and chaos.

I’ve been seeing an advertisement for a new television show the last week or so, in which a young child holds up a sheet of her own artwork saying, “I drew a picture of our family.” The person who appears to be the main character of the new show says, “Not good enough. Try again.” Maybe she adds, “Sweetie,” to that—I don’t quite recall. It’s supposed to be humor, as if no real mother would ever say such a thing to a child...

It loses its humor when we realize that real people do exactly that.

On Christmas Day this past year, we read all the parts of the gospel stories that tell of how Jesus came into this world. We went all the way through what happened after the sages returned from their visit without returning to Herod... For that, we sang the carol about the bells on Christmas Day ringing in vain,

because peace on earth seems to be a fallacy. The carol ends with a promise that God’s peace shall come, that the right shall prevail, and we ended the day with something much more joyous.

The truth is that peace (this side of the resurrection) is hard-won, and fragile. It takes work, because in our humanity, each one seems to want more of just about anything than what the next one has.

Even giving becomes difficult, as we learn that some kinds of giving are more harmful than helpful for the recipients.

This month we enter into a new calendar year, 2023. We pray that this year will bring more peace in countries that have been ravaged by war; more peace in homes that have been tainted with violence; more peace in community gathering places that have been torn apart by shooters; more peace in congressional chambers where idealistic definitions of righteousness clash.

Those are the easy ones to name and to garner support. It’s the more subtle ones that are much more common, and much more difficult. These are the clashes between people who disappoint one another, who want better for one another, who can’t understand why human



relationships can’t be easier. It’s clashes between parents and children, siblings, spouses, family and friends who find themselves with differing ideas of what is good and what must change.

Too often, we find ourselves condemning one another, decrying the state of society that allows such things! It is at these times we need to remember the reaction of Jesus when confronted with a mob gathering to issue justice to one who had clearly crossed a legal boundary. Upon further consideration, not one in the mob enforced that sentence... and neither did Jesus.

We are here to be community in ways that embody God’s love.

Grace to you and peace.

Pastor Michelle



PARISH NURSING NOTES

"It is not good for man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18). The celebration of faith and family during the Christmas season is over. But attention to family relationships is just as important in January as it was in December. Since the family of the 1950's is no longer the norm, we as a church, and a community, need to ask what it means to be "family," how we support families, and how we reclaim its importance.

By definition, a family is "a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation." This means that any group who love and support each other through life's complications is considered family. God's family goes beyond blood lines, color, size, or creed. Without family, people are often set adrift with no direction or support which tends to make them less healthy. Positive relationships provide unconditional love and encouragement which fosters self-esteem, positive attitudes, and better health habits. They ground a person and provide building blocks for other relationships. We at Concordia are a family. Our community is a family.



"Now, dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing

among yourselves. Let there be harmony so there won't be divisions in the church."

(I Cor. 1:10). How do we build and nurture positive families of all types? All families have highs and lows, so it is important to learn how to deal with both ends of the spectrum. Really listen to the thoughts, feelings, and wishes of the other person. Attend and support each other's interests and events. Discuss differences of opinions and agree to disagree. If approached properly, conflict can strengthen families by hearing and understanding others. Embrace all family life whether it consists of a biological, church, neighborhood, college, or other supportive "family." Each setting is important to your spiritual, mental, and physical health.

Music is a big factor in promoting harmony and health. Just



listening to music releases mood elevating, pain relieving neuro-chemicals such as dopamine and endorphins. But the act of singing does even more. It involves activity in both hemispheres of the brain, which promotes brain health. And it improves both respiratory function and blood oxygen levels. And this is something we can all do together in church! So sing out—whether in the choir or in the pews! You don't have to be pitch perfect to reap the benefits, and help provide the benefits to others.

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God, through Christ, has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:31-32). Rejoice with others as well as support them in times of need. Know that forgiveness can nurture as much as praise.

Wouldn't our world family be happier if everyone could live by the guidelines God has given us? In the coming year be loving, supportive, forgiving, happy, and healthy. And remember to sing out loud!....Jean



Memorials

In Memory of Roberta Dumonsau:
Tim & Nan Sauter

In Memory of Joel & Martha Dahl:
Nancy & Arthur Swenson

The Family of Betty Ursin will be giving the money they receive for Memorials in the Sympathy Cards to Church in Memory of Betty.

Blood Pressure Checks

Parish Nursing staff will be checking blood pressures the first Sunday of the month, in the Parish Nurse Office before morning worship from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Scrip Gift Cards available in the Church Office to purchase:

Bath & Body Works \$25
CVS \$25;
Holiday \$25;
Kwik Trip \$25.
Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash (5) \$35.
Target \$25;
Walmart \$25

If you would like to purchase other gift cards that we do not have, let us know and we can get them for you.

(The Church receives a percentage of each gift card purchased).



Concordia's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2023 right after the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. A lunch will be provided. Please make plans to attend this meeting.

I still need reports from some of the Committees. Please get them to me as soon as possible so they can be put into the Annual Report.



Coffee Hour

Anyone interested in serving coffee after a Worship Service, please sign up on the Bulletin Board next to the small kitchen.

Offering Envelopes for 2023

Our offering envelopes for 2023 were ordered months ago. The place we ordered them had a few presses break down and had to wait for parts to fix them. We should receive them in either January or February 2023 at the latest. As soon as we receive them we will let you know.

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, January 1, First Sunday of Christmas

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

Prayer of the Day: Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Numbers 6:22-27 *The Aaronic blessing*

Psalm 8 *How majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Galatians 4:4-7 *We are no longer slaves, but children*

Luke 2:15-21 *The child is circumcised and named Jesus*

Sunday, January 8, Baptism of our Lord

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God’s healing.

Prayer of the Day: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9 *The servant of the Lord brings justice*

Psalm 29 *The voice of the Lord is upon the waters*

Acts 10:34-43 *Jesus’ ministry after his baptism*

Matthew 3:13-17 *Revelation of Christ as God’s servant*

Sunday, January 15, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Today’s gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus’ baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings (for January 15)

Isaiah 49:1-7, *The servant brings light to the nations*

Psalm 40:1-11 *I love to do your will, O my God*

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 *Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth*

John 1:29-42 *Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God*

Sunday, January 22, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

Prayer of the Day. Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-4 *Light shines for those in darkness*

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 *The Lord is my light and my salvation*

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 *Appeal for unity in the gospel*

Matthew 4:12-23 *Revelation of Christ as a prophet*

Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Prayer of the Day. Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings

Micah 6:1-8 *The offering of justice, kindness, humility*

Psalm 15 *Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill?*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God*

Matthew 5:1-12 *The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes*

~ January 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
10a-11a Worship		9a-9:30a Staff Meeting				
		11a-12p Jeanne Downs Funeral				
8	9 6p-7p Property Management Committee	10	11 1:30p-2:30p Harmony House Worship	12	13	14
10a-11a Worship		9a-9:30a Staff Meeting				
11a-12p Council Meeting		11a-12p Pastor's Text Study				
15	16 Martin Luther King 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	17	18	19	20	21
10a-11a Worship		9a-9:30a Staff Meeting		9:30a-1p Pastor's Conference Meeting		
		11a-12p Pastor's Text Study				
		2:00p Superior Area Ministry Meeting				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10a-11a Worship		9a-9:30a Staff Meeting				
11a-12p Annual Meeting		11a-12p Pastor's Text Study				
29	30	31	Notes:			
10a-11a Worship		9a-9:30a Staff Meeting				
		11a-12p Pastor's Text Study				



Altar Flowers for January

- January 1
In honor of all the faithful members of
Concordia given by Pastor Michelle Rowell
- January 8
Altar Guild
- January 15
In Memory Roy Peterson given by Marie
Peterson
- January 22
In Memory of Ethel Wnek given by Richard
Wnek & Family
- January 29
Altar Guild

Serving in January

Ushers

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| January 1 | Team III Joyce Olson |
| January 8 | Team I Ken Harmer |
| January 15 | Team II Eric Sewall |
| January 22 | Team III Joyce Olson |
| January 29 | Team I Ken Harmer |

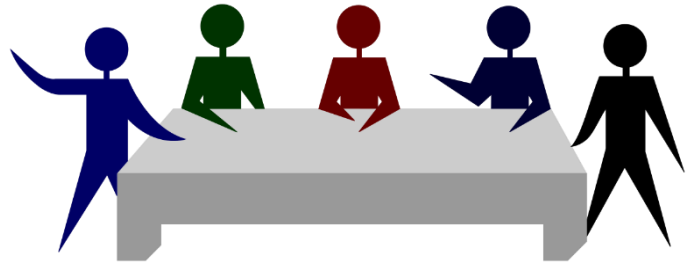
Bus Driver

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| January 1 | Pete Quist |
| January 8 | Ken Harmer |
| January 15 | Brett Quist |
| January 22 | Kris Hanson |
| January 29 | Ken Harmer |

Financial Assistants

Ken & Deb Harmer

**If you are willing to serve on the council or
on a committee, please make your desires
known to the office or a council member.**



**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, Mike Olson	715-398-0343
Vice President, Mark Thompson	715-392-3166
Secretary, Ken Harmer	218-390-8218
Treasurer, Doug Score	218-260-0657
Matt Ketola	715-363-2567
Kris Hanson	715-977-1260

**Concordia's Annual
Meeting will be on
Sunday, January 22
after worship.**

Lunch will be provided.

Concordia Lutheran Church
1708 John Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

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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
Kent Peterson, Custodian
Matthew Eastman, Technologies

Contributors: Many
Assembly/mailling: Our faithful volunteers

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January

Vol. 44 No. 1

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

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.