



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI

August 2023

Vol 44 No. 8

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

From the Pastor:

Grace to you and peace, in this season of change and discernment. Most of you will have read my letter of resignation, as I have accepted a call to another congregation in the ELCA. Most of you have also read the letter from the congregational council, detailing some of the statistics facing Concordia indicating that something needs to change.

What will never change is the love that God has for you (and all of God’s creation)!

All around the world people are telling the story of God’s love. All around the world, people are living God’s love in their homes and their neighborhoods. All around the world, God’s Spirit is actively inspiring what is good and righteous.

God continues to act in ways that are often overlooked by the good people of the church. The parable of the seed growing secretly (in Mark 4:26-29) has Jesus acknowledging that we don’t always see the growth that is happening in the kingdom, even when it is very near to us.

At other times, it seems to be very obvious what is happening. I’ve heard stories of the multiple choirs that sang from the various balconies here at Concordia. (I’ve also heard stories of unexpected oopses that happened

while processing into those spaces!) I’ve heard of (and seen) piles of donations during drives for the Food Shelf, for school supplies, and for domestic abuse victims. This is when it’s easy to see God at work.

Sometimes, though, we cannot see what God is doing. This is particularly frustrating when we are suffering, maybe in pain from worn-out joints, dealing with chronic illness, or faced with unexpected untoward actions of those around us.

We were speaking the other day of the neighborhood surrounding Concordia’s building, and the challenges of reaching out to people who might not really be interested in any church because of past abuses or snubs. God does not promise a life free from challenges, but does promise to walk with us as we encounter them.

Some years ago, I had the opportunity to be a voting member at a Churchwide Assembly. It was a very energizing experience, and of course we accomplished some very necessary business—but I no longer remember exactly what those business items were; I do know that I can look them up in the archives of the ELCA!

What I do remember is something I’d rather not have seen. There were people



picketing along the pathways we walked from our hotels to the convention site holding signs that said, “GOD HATES ___S”.

I won’t tell you what word was in the blank, because whatever word was in the blank that sentence is absolutely false.

Of course, the people holding those signs were defining those they referenced (in a pejorative term) as sinners, but God does not hate sinners. Instead God purposefully comes to us sinners to inspire us toward more righteous living, toward better expressions of God’s love for others in the community, toward a future that only God can see perfectly clearly.

Gog bless you as you continue to live with God’s Holy Spirit active in your lives. God be with you ‘til we meet again.

Blessings! *Pastor Michelle*



PARISH NURSING NOTES

“He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure....” (Mark 6:31)

Jesus knew the importance of rest, relaxation, and renewal. He mentions it many times, reminding his disciples and others to take time out for themselves, and away from the burdens of the work-a-day world. I hope you have been able to spend some time enjoying your family and friends, and all the blessings which come to us in the summer.

Why do we find it so difficult to fit rest and relaxation into our lives? As humans, we seem to define ourselves by **what we do** rather than by **who we are, or whose we are**. For many of us, if we are not working at something (anything!), we seem to feel like we are wasting time. Even our culture seems to over-value productivity and under-value self-care. Americans are typically granted, and use, much less vacation time than Europeans. And when vacation time **is** taken, it is filled with as much activity as can possibly be crammed into it. God gave us a beautiful world with varying seasons, and our special blessings in each of them. He gave us family and friends as

additional blessings to enjoy in this world. He gave us wonderful bodies that are able to do necessary work, but also require rest and relaxation. Most importantly, He gave us His Son, to carry our burdens and give us rest.

We can incorporate rest and relaxation into our lives in other ways on a daily basis. Practice deep-breathing from your abdomen several times a day. Take a minute-vacation by imagining yourself in your favorite place. Make time each day for a walk outside. Play with your children or grandchildren. Watch a sunset (or a sunrise). Read the book you’ve been wanting to get into. Go to an outdoor concert in the park. Take a picnic lunch to a park, the beach, or your own back yard, and listen to the sounds of water, birds, or children playing. There are many ways to uplift your spirit as well as your body, and most of them are free!

Our minds need first aid for all the planning, activity, facts, and figures that tend to cram into our every waking moment. Social first aid includes sharing time, thoughts, and feelings with our family and friends. Let them know how much they are appreciated. We need to share our blessings with others—with friends, and those who are not yet friends.

Our spiritual needs require attention in summer also. We may travel far from our own church, but we can always worship in a different church, in a campground, or on a boat. There are many ways to uplift your spirit as well as your body. Take time to *“Be still and know that I am God,”* as Psalm 46:10 instructs.

“My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him.” (Psalm 62:1).

Have a safe, happy, restful, summer that you may return refreshed to serve God all your days.....Jean

Memorials

In Memory of Mark Thompson:

Bill & Lois O'Neill (Bus)

Debi & Ken Harmer (Property & Management)

Rhoda Pearthree

Shirley Brandser



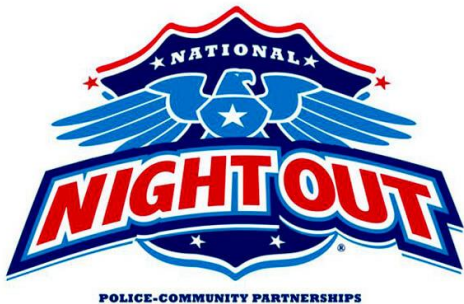
In Memory of Charlotte Raye & Wayne Krueger

Diane Krueger



FROM THE COUNCIL:

Please join us on Sunday, August 6, to recognize the **confirmation of Jacob Penney** and to say **Good Bye to Pastor Michelle** with coffee and cupcakes following the service.



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1

We'll start at **6:00** with a **picnic** on the lawn. At **7:00**, a **small band** will begin to play some songs from our worship space. Expect to hear familiar pieces from the 60s and 70s. This will be more like an open house than a concert, so feel free to come and go as you please. (Songs may repeat.)

Calling all Concordia Ladies



We will be having a work day on Thursday, August 10 starting at 9 a.m. to inventory the kitchens, CLCW storage areas and hopefully

get some cleaning done, too.

We'll get together to work and to share some fellowship time.

Hope you can make it.



Outside Worship Services

On August 13, 2023 the Worship Service will be held in Billings Park **at Our Saviors Lutheran Church at 10:00** with other area Lutheran Churches in Superior. No congregational offerings will be received that day, but there will be a **free-will offering** for the band "**Breaking Chains**", presenting the worship service for us that day.

Gluten Free, Alcohol Free

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available for anyone who needs them. Unfermented grape juice is also available.

We are currently looking for **volunteers** for some Sundays to pour the juice for **communion** (and maybe move the items into the worship space), as well as to perform minimal clean up after the service. This will be only when no one from Altar Guild is scheduled for that Sunday. We will train volunteers (it is not difficult). Altar guild plans to have everything (but the juice) ready for use ahead of time.

Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

Sunday, August 6, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 55:1-5 *Eat and drink that which truly satisfies*

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21 *You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing!*

Romans 9:1-5 *The glory of God's people Israel*

Matthew 14:13-21 *Christ feeding five thousand*



Sunday, August 13, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Prayer of the Day: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings

1 Kings 19:9-18 *The Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb*

Psalms 85:8-13 *I will listen to what the Lord God is saying*

Romans 10:5-15 *Hearing and confessing the word of faith*

Matthew 14:22-33 *Jesus walking on the sea*

Sunday, August 20, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prayer of the Day: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

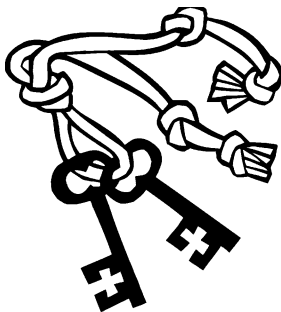
Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 *A house of prayer for all peoples*

Psalm 67: *Let all the peoples praise you, O God*

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 *God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile*

Matthew 15:10-20] 21-28 *The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*



Sunday, August 27, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Prayer of the Day. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 51:1-6 *The enduring foundation of God's salvation*

Psalm 138 *O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever*

Romans 12:1-8 *One body in Christ, with gifts that differ*

Matthew 16:13-20 *The profession of Peter's faith*

~ August 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting 6p-7p National Night Out Picnic 7p-8p National Night Out Band	2	3	4	5
6 10a-11a Confirmation 10a-11a Worship	7	8 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	9	10 9a-12p CLCW Work Day	11	12
13 10a-11a Joint Outdoor Worship Service at Our Saviors (Our Savior's Lutheran Church), 1924 Wyoming Ave, Superior, WI 54	14 6p-7p Property Management Committee	15 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 10a-11a Worship	21 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	22 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	23	24	25	26
27 10a-11a Worship 11:15a-12:15p Council Meeting	28	29 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	30	31	Notes:	



Altar Flowers for August

August 6

Altar Guild

August 13

Outdoor Worship Service at Our Saviors

August 20

In Memory of Loved Ones given by Bill & Lois O'Neill

August 27

In Memory of Loved Ones given by Nancy Spiering

Serving in August

Ushers

August 6

Team III Joyce Olson

August 13

Team I Ken Harmer

August 20

Team II Eric Sewall

August 27

Team III Joyce Olson

Bus Driver

August 6

Pete Quist

August 13

Ken Harmer

August 20

Brett Quist

August 27

Kris Hanson

Communion Helper

August 6

Joyce Olson

August 13

Debbie Harmer

August 20

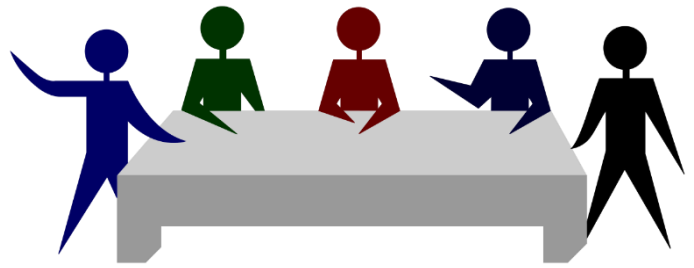
Shawn Quist

August 27

Mike Olson

Financial Assistants

Kris Hanson



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

Council members for 2023.

Mike Olson, President	715-398-0343
Kris Hanson, Vice President	715-977-1260
Ken Harmer, Secretary	218-390-8218
Doug Score, Treasurer	218-260-0657
Rob Strauch	715-718-1226
Eric Sewall	715-392-1559
Tom O'Neill	218-391-6139

Council meets next on August 27, 2023.

Bus Available

Please remember that the Church Bus is available for Sunday Services. Please call the office if you want to be added to the list.



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Superior, WI 54880

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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
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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August

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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.