



# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI December 2023

Vol 44 No. 12

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

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## **Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!**

I'm excited to be serving alongside you in the coming months. I've been serving Our Savior's Lutheran church in Billings Park for the last 4 years and foresee a fruitful collaboration between our two congregations. God has blessed both our congregations with vital ministry and resources to help build his kingdom in this world. This is a new ministry development for me having only served one other congregation in Nebraska for 5 years before coming to Superior. We'll all be doing something new together and I am hopeful that God will be with us in the process.

But before we dig into building the ministry, I thought I'd share a little about me. I've been married to Johanna (Jo) for the last 14 years and we've raised 4 kids together: Tori (25), Samantha (14), Jamie (12), and Lincoln (10). Jo has worked for the company, CHS, for the last 20 years and she is my rock. Alas, she works on the weekends so she'll rarely join the kids and I for worship services. Tori lives in Lincoln, NE with her high school sweetheart. I grew up in the Chicago suburbs and earned my Bachelor's Degree at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL and Master's of Divinity at Luther Seminary. Prior to seminary, I served in the US Air Force having been stationed in Texas, Germany,

Saudi Arabia, and North Dakota. Between the military and Benedictine traditions, I bring a lot of faithful discipline to ministry. That said, I also bring a lot of out-of-the-box ideas too. Perhaps you've noticed the changes I've already brought to the worship services with the different lectionary and worship time. I am always eager to try new ways of doing ministry together so don't hesitate bringing your fresh ideas to me.

I've been trying to get the two congregations to collaborate on weekly Bible studies and choir rehearsals/performances. We'll try to meet for Bible studies at Concordia on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Otherwise, we'll gather at Our Savior's on Wednesdays the rest of the month. We'll rehearse the joint choir on Wednesdays but perform at both churches on Sundays. Please reach out to me or Nancy in the office if interested in either ministry.

I look forward to getting to know you in the months ahead and pray you had a restful Thanksgiving weekend.

Blessings,

Pastor Sean Koos

## Parish Nursing Notes

It's hard to believe we're already entering Advent and the Christmas season! As a child, I remember how right after Thanksgiving, we would pour over catalogs (Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Wards) trying to choose what to put on our Christmas lists. We would start off wanting almost everything on each page, but gradually as we studied each item, we decided on the 5-6 items we really wanted. I guess most children go through a similar routine.

I also remember, as an adult, asking my parents for suggestions of things they might like as a Christmas gift. Very often their reply would be, "We already have everything we need or want." And now, as I have reached that stage of life, I have come to share that feeling. It seems that as we mature (NOT age!), we come to an attitude of appreciation and gratitude rather than of want. And what better time to express gratitude than at Christmas when we celebrate receiving the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus who died for our sins.

How many other gifts have we been given that we take for granted. We say "thank you" several times a day without even thinking about it – to a waitress bringing your food, to a cashier handing you a receipt. But how often do we express real gratitude for the truly important things we have been given. At a workshop I attended several years ago, we were asked to write down 5 things we were grateful for in the past week. It took a moment to start thinking of the first one or two things – and then, as they started flooding in, I found I couldn't write fast enough! The first things were generic – family, health, home. Then they started getting specific – the workman who "just happened" to be at our house during the October snow storm, and offered to clear the driveway of the big tree that fell across it so Dick wouldn't have to worry about it after his back surgery. And proceeded to not only remove the tree, but also cut it up into

fireplace lengths and bring them to the wood shed! And my heart that kept beating regularly through Dick's recovery and his Dad's recent hospitalization. And that's just the beginning!

As I would walk on the roads out around our house, I would often find myself singing under my breath, "This is the day that the Lord has made...let us rejoice and be glad in it." And I put in my own words for all the things I am grateful for – "These are my feet that the Lord has made... this is my heart...these are the trees...this is the sun...and on and on. As I went on, I kept finding more and more things to be thankful for, and it made the walk much more enjoyable.

Practicing gratitude is also beneficial to our health. And it doesn't cost a thing! Research has shown that it can make you happier and healthier, both emotionally and physically. Thankful people tend to take better care of themselves, exercising regularly, eating a healthy diet, and seeking regular medical care. It also builds positive feelings. One large study suggests that the positive physical attributes linked to expressing gratitude may actually help prevent heart disease. It found that people who regularly express gratitude tend to: get more and better sleep at night; have fewer headaches, nausea, pain, and other physical symptoms of illness; experience less stress; have greater resistance to illness; have a greater sense of well-being; and view life as pleasurable, interesting, and exciting.

You can start by telling God daily what you are particularly grateful for that day. I am thankful to be a part of Concordia, a beautiful building with a rich history of hardworking, faithful members. I am grateful for all of you – your friendship and support, and allowing me to be a part of your lives.

Stay happy, healthy and grateful!

Jean Riedasch

# Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks

## Sunday, December 3, First Sunday of Advent

**Prayer of the Day** God of the promised Messiah, as we wait for the fulfillment of your promise, we watch, we listen, and we open our hearts for your Word. Show us signs of your presence: a light in the darkness. A voice in the silence, and a stirring deep within us. Amen

### Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-18  
Mark 8:27-29

## Sunday December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

**Prayer of the Day;** Holy Lord, a Voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming. Amen

### Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Mark 1:1-4

## Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

**Prayer of the Day:** God of restoration, you brought your people home from exile and in their joy they rebuild your temple. Deliver us from your personal and communal exiles and help us to build up your Church. Amen

### Readings

Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13  
Luke 2:25-32

## Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

**Prayer of the Day:** Emmanuel, today we celebrate your coming and rejoice in your promises. We joyfully welcome you to this world and celebrate your presence in our lives. Amen.

### Readings

Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]  
Luke 1:46-55

## Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

**Prayer of the Day:** Heavenly God, when Jesus was baptized by John in the wilderness, you claimed him as your son. Claim us as your children, inheritors of your glorious kingdom. Amen

### Readings

Mark 1:1-20  
Psalm 91:9-12



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### **Bible Study**

Pastor Sean will be leading a Bible Study on December 14, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in our Church Library with our friends from Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Anyone interested in attending please show up.

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Pastor Sean's office hours at Concordia will be on Thursday's beginning November 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Anyone who wants can stop in to talk with him.



### **CHRISTMAS GOODIES**

Please join us for Christmas goodies after worship on the first Sunday in Advent, which is December 3, 2023. This will be in the back of the sanctuary.

### **From the Council:**

Concordia's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. More details will be published in the January 2024 Concordian.

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

If you have any questions, please contact your Church Council members.

#### **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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT**

Any Committees that have Reports for the Annual Report must be given to the Church Office on or before January 4, 2024.



# Christmas Worship



Christmas Eve we will worship at 2:00 p.m.

No morning service will be scheduled on Christmas Eve and no Christmas Day service will be held.

## FROM THE ALTAR GUILD:

We are letting you know that the Altar Guild has decided to suspend the Altar Flower Memorial Ministry until there is a clear path for Concordia. This is a time of uncertainty for us. The number of people who participate in having altar flowers in memory of loved ones has decreased. With the Altar Guild covering the cost of almost twenty-three weeks each year. We also cover a portion of the overall cost.

The Altar Guild will still be offering poinsettias at Christmas (see the form below) and lilies at Easter time so that you will have the opportunity to memorialize or honor your loved ones.

Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for Concordia.

**Poinsettias will be purchased by the Altar Guild to decorate the chancel for Christmas. If you wish to donate (any amount) towards this, please use this form. You may make your donation in memory or in honor of a loved one if you wish. Please make your payment to Concordia Altar Guild and put Poinsettia Fund in the memo line. A list of donations will be in the Christmas bulletin.**



**Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In memory (deceased) of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In honor (living) of:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Make Checks payable to Concordia Altar Guild. The form and donation can be placed in the offering plates in the Sanctuary or mailed to the Church Office) Poinsettia donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 17, 2023.*

~ December 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8a-9a Worship	4	5 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	6	7 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office	8	9
10 8a-9a Worship 8am 11a-12p Church Council Meeting	11 6p-7p Property Management Committee	12 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	13	14 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office 10:30a-11:30a Bible study with Our Saviors friends	15	16
17 8a-9a Worship	18 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	19 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	20	21 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office	22 Winter Solstice	23
24 2p-3p Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	27	28 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office	29	30
31 8a-9a Worship	Notes:					





## Altar Flowers for November

November 19 (correction)

In Memory of Albert C & Margaret Banker &  
Roger & Margaret Erickson given by Gary &  
Carol Banker

## Altar Flowers for December

December 3

In Memory of William Lindstrom given by  
Carol Lindstrom & Family

December 10

In Memory of Larry Quam & Loved Ones given  
by Yvonne, Larry Jr., Ronald, David & Dennis  
Quam & Teresa Heisick

December 17

In Memory of Ralph & Shirley Nelson given by  
Ann Novack

December 24

In Memory of Lorraine Peterson given by Tom  
& Nancy O'Neill, Keegan & Ali, Kali & Jordan

December 31

Altar Guild

## Serving in December

### **Ushers**

December 3	Team II Eric Sewall
December 10	Team III Joyce Olson
December 17	Team I Ken Harmer
December 24	Team II Eric Sewall
December 31	Team III Joyce Olson

### **Bus Driver**

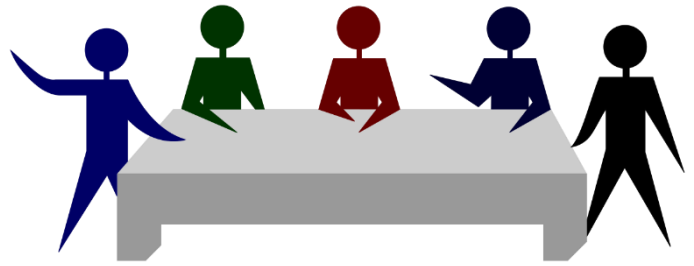
December 3	Pete Quist
December 10	Kris Hanson
December 17	Ken Harmer
December 24	Brett Quist
December 31	Ken Harmer

### **Communion Helper**

December 3	Lori Sewall
December 17	Debbie Harmer

### **Financial Assistants**

Brett Quist & Eric Sewall



**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

Next Council Meeting is December 10, 2023.

# *Bus Available*

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



Concordia Lutheran Church  
1708 John Ave.  
Superior, WI 54880

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

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Church website: [www.concordiasuperior.org](http://www.concordiasuperior.org)

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)

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Beth Sobczak, Keyboards  
Dr. Héctor Landa, Keyboards  
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Matthew Eastman, Technologies  
Carol Lindegren, Concordian Editor

Contributors: Many  
*Assembly/mailling:* Our faithful volunteers

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December

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A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church  
Superior, Wisconsin  
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)

## 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.