



# Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church – ELCA

Superior, WI January 2024

Vol 45 No. 1

*“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!!**

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Winter so far has been surprisingly mild with very little snow and mostly above-freezing temperatures. After a winter like last year with record snowfall and a good 6 months of mostly below-freezing temperatures, I think we’ve earned a mild winter here up north. I actually broke one of my shovels trying to get through the ice last year! I thought those things had a lifetime guarantee to them. I guess even they have a breaking point. God’s been pretty kind to us. Let’s just pray He continues his mercy.

In some ways, a harsh winter is a good way to start the new year off. It forces most of us (winter sports enthusiasts aside) to stay indoors, reflect on things, and nurture our relationships. Sort of like during those dark years of the pandemic when the rest of the world got a taste of an isolating northern winter. We northern folk are quite accustomed to sheltering from the elements for half the year and have perfected it. We know how to hunker in and wait out the long winter with ever-deepening thoughts and relationships. If you don’t like pondering or developing

relationships, northern Wisconsin isn’t the place for you.

I’ve begun my winter ponderings by reflecting on our shared ministry. I’m excited to be a part of Concordia’s community this winter. I’d really like to see some children’s ministries get started in the year ahead but for now I’m content focusing on adult education and choir revitalization. If you’re interested in helping revitalize Concordia’s children’s ministries, please reach out to me so we can begin brainstorming. Thank you to those at both Concordia and Our Savior’s who have already collaborated in Bible studies and choir gatherings. It created a richer Christmas season. Choir rehearsals will continue meeting at Our Savior’s on Wednesdays and Sundays but perhaps this will change. Our weekly Bible studies are meeting once a month (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) at Concordia. There’s no reason why we couldn’t rehearse our joint choir at Concordia once a month or more. Things to consider as we develop our shared ministry.

God has blessed both our congregations with mighty resources and It’s exciting to collaborate. Let’s use this quiet time of the year to fully develop our collaboration. Though it’s been slow coming, I imagine we have some cold, snowy days ahead of us yet. Let’s put it to our advantage!

Blessings,  
Pastor Sean Koos

## **Worship Aids for the Coming Weeks**

### **Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**Prayer of the Day:** Healing Lord Jesus, you performed miracles that helped followers become aware of your presence and your magnificence. Surprise us today with miracles that we desperately seek, and make your presence known to all. Amen

#### **Readings**

Mark 1:21-45

Psalms 103:1-5

### **Sunday January 14, 2024**

**Prayer of the Day;** Lord of forgiveness, you healed a paralytic by forgiving his sins. Forgive us, heal us, and teach us to walk in your ways. Amen

#### **Readings**

Mark 2:1-22

Psalms 103:6-14

### **Sunday, January 21, 2024**

**Prayer of the Day:** God of the Word, in the parable of the sower you showed us how your word can take root and grow within us. Nurture the seeds of your word in our hearts and help us to grow in faith and love. Amen

#### **Readings**

Mark 4:1-34

Psalms 126

## **Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**Prayer of the Day:** Jesus healer of mind and body, we sometimes suffer at the hands of physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Quiet our minds, still our hearts, and empower our bodies so that we may be whole and healed.  
**Amen.**

### **Readings**

Mark 5:1-20

Psalm 89:1-4



### **Bible Study**

Pastor Sean will be leading a Bible Study the second Thursday of the month, January 11, 2024 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 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Anyone who wants can stop in to talk with him.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2024 are in the back of the Sanctuary. If you don't find your box of envelopes and would like one let Nancy in the Office know and she can get you a box.

## **Hat & Mitten Tree**

We collected 50 hats, 7 hat and mitten sets, 3 neck scarves, 22 pairs of mittens and gloves, all for Head Start. We will continue to collect hats and mittens for the Headstart children until the end of February. A box is located in the back of the sanctuary.

Clothing given to Headstart from Concordia Cares:

Several pairs of snowpants, jackets, Sweatpants and shirts,

## **From the Council:**

Concordia's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. This is an important meeting and we hope that you plan on attending.

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**

Just a reminder that any Committees that have Reports for the Annual Report must be given to the Church Office no later than January 15, 2024.

**Bible Studies January 2024**

**Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30**

**(Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6627675381> or call 1-312-626-6799, passcode: 046800)**

*01-03-24 Mark 1:21-45*

1. What insight does verse 21 give into what a synagogue meeting was like? What do we learn here about Jesus' ministry?
2. What difference was there between his teaching and that of the scribes? How might his authority make His actual teaching look different?
3. Why do you think this demon possessed man went to this service? What might Satan have been trying to accomplish?
4. What did this demon admit that most people in Israel denied? What does this tell us about what true belief is?
5. Why might Jesus have told this demon to "be quiet?"
6. What do you think they expected of Jesus when they told Jesus about her fever?
7. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
8. Why do you think Jesus did not permit the demons to speak about his identity in verse 34?
9. How should Jesus' time of solitary prayer help us prioritize times of daily prayer in our busy and demanding schedules?
10. If Jesus is fully able to heal people from disease and deliver them from demonic oppression, why does he want to focus on preaching?

*01-10-24 Mark 2:1-22*

1. What do each of the events recorded in this chapter have in common? Can you think of a common thread that links them all together?
2. Why did they go to such great effort for Jesus to see this paralytic?
3. Why do you think Jesus only said to the one man that his sins were forgiven instead of to all five? What did he see in that situation that we cannot?
4. In this passage what is the relationship between their faith and their works?
5. Which do you think is easier to say (verse 9) and why?
6. What insights into Jesus' character do you have from this passage?
7. Why did he choose someone he knew would be looked down on by most Jews?
8. What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' habit of associating with these types of people?
9. What was Jesus' explanation for this? What does this mean?
10. What other complaint did they have about Jesus? What do you think was their motivation for voicing this?

*01-17-24 Mark 4:1-34*

1. Why is it a gift not only to hear but also to understand the Word of the Lord?
2. Why do you think Jesus used seeds in His parables?
3. What does Jesus want to teach us about God's Kingdom through these parables?
4. There are some surprising things about God's ways in this passage. Is there anything offensive to you in Jesus' parables or His explanation of them? If so, what? What does this reveal about our ways and God's ways?
5. Why do you think Jesus often taught by the sea?
6. Why did Jesus conclude his parable saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear?"
7. How might someone who is not spiritually sensitive respond to a parable they didn't understand?
8. Why was this group privileged to understand the mystery of the kingdom of God?
9. Why was it important to understand this parable as opposed to others?
10. How can we put our "lamp on the lampstand?" What is the opposite of doing this?

*01-24-24 Mark 5:1-20*

1. Who is treated in the way this anonymous man was treated today?
2. The man saw Jesus and begged to be left alone-why? Why would someone fear goodness?
3. How did the townspeople treat him, and do you think their treatment was appropriate?
4. What would happen to this man if he showed up in Superior?
5. Did the man himself, in spite of the demons, throw himself down in front of Jesus?
6. Why does the demon adjure Jesus "by God?" (Matt 8:29)
7. Why does Jesus engage the demon by asking his name?
8. Why did the demon fear being cast "out of the country?"
9. Why is this man told to "go and tell" rather than to remain silent?
10. Why does Jesus not allow this man to "be with him?"

*01-31-24 Mark 5:21-43*

1. What was Jairus' request? What did this show about him?
2. How must she have felt suffering through this illness for 12 years?
3. Should she have kept seeing the physicians? Did this demonstrate a lack of faith?
4. What kinds of doubts or feelings toward God may have arisen in those 12 years?
5. What might this woman have learned during these 12 years?
6. Why did Jesus ask who touched Him? Did He not know the answer?
7. How did Jesus respond to the lady? What can we learn about his character from this?
8. How might Jairus have felt while all of this was going on?
9. How might Jairus and the people around reacted to Jesus' statement in verse 36?
10. How did Jesus respond to their derision? How should we respond when people laugh at us?

~ January 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8a-9a Worship	<b>8</b> 6p-7p Property Management Committee	<b>9</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office 10:30a-11:30a Bible Study with Our Saviors	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8a-9a Worship 11a-12p Church Council Meeting	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King 6p-7p Worship and Music Committee	<b>16</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8a-9a Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9a-5p Pastor Koos in Office	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8a-9a Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9a-9:30a Staff Meeting	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>		

## Serving in January

### **Ushers**

January 7	Team II Eric Sewall
January 14	Team III Joyce Olson
January 21	Team I Ken Harmer
January 28	Team II Eric Sewall

### **Bus Driver**

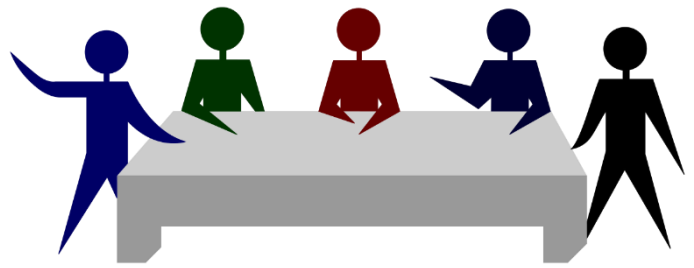
January 7	Pete Quist
January 14	Kris Hanson
January 21	Ken Harmer
January 28	Brett Quist

### **Communion Helper**

January 7	Lori Sewall
January 21	Debbie Harmer

### **Financial Assistants**

Ken & Deb Harmer



**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 January 14, 2024.

# *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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1708 John Ave.  
Superior, WI 54880

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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)

Sean Koos, Interim Pastor  
Beth Sobczak, Keyboards  
Dr. Héctor Landa, Keyboards  
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Kent Peterson, Custodian  
Matthew Eastman, Technologies  
Carol Lindegren, Concordian Editor

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

# The Concordian

January

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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 8:00 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.