



The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church - ELCA † Superior, WI
December, 2015

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

Advent is my favorite season of the church year and Luke is my favorite Gospel. This year, the year of Luke, I get to enjoy both of my favorites as my ministry at Concordia draws to a close. Ironically, the nature of my pastoral ending overlaps with the nature of Advent’s beginning. Such is the timing of God’s kingdom that is often described as the “already but not yet.”

Luke was so confident in his gospel of Jesus that he decided to write a sequel about the early church that later Christians titled “Acts of the Apostles.” Read how Luke makes the transition from his Jesus story to his early church story:

“It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:7-8)

Each of us is a recipient of power from the Holy Spirit. Each of us is called through our baptism to proclaim God’s Kingdom. I have relished my time serving among you. I look forward to these next weeks when we again anticipate with joy and hopefulness the coming of God’s kingdom among us. You will hear me humming my favorite song, “All Earth Is Hopeful.” You will hear Jesus’ message of liberation as told by Luke.

Jesus’ ministry is described by Luke as a ministry of release or liberation from economic distress and social marginalization. Jesus proclaims an alternative future where relationships are reformed through new patterns and practices built on God’s mercy and love. I firmly believe Luke’s Gospel is a gospel for our time. I see how we have grown and continue to grow as God’s people. I see how new relationship with God and each other is being formed.

This Advent, accept release from your harried schedule and hardened past. Behold the Christ who lights our world anew. Participate in the kingdom already but not yet.

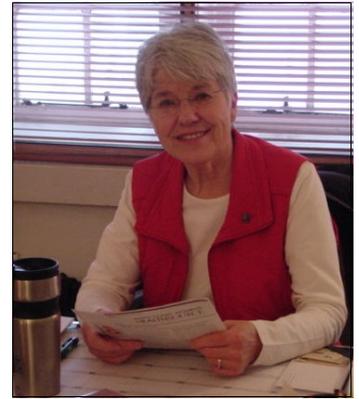
Ever in God’s grace,

Pastor Greg



Parish Nursing Notes...

As I am writing this before Thanksgiving, my mind is more on what side dishes to serve this year, and do I make the usual pumpkin and pecan pies, or try something less traditional, but when I do think ahead to December and Christmas, my thoughts go immediately to **sharing** sharing not only gifts and food and our home, but also love and our many blessings. My sisters and I were always taught to share whatever we had, whether we liked it or not! Sometimes we shared things that should NOT have been shared, like colds, flu, measles, and mumps!



That brings me to the message for this month. This year, December 6-12 is being recognized as National Influenza Vaccination Week. This year's vaccine is believed to be much more effective than last year's version, when the prevalent form of the virus was not included in the vaccine. If you have not already had your flu shot, it is not too late. The flu season usually peaks in January and February; it takes about two weeks for the body to achieve protection after being vaccinated, so you still have time. Vaccination is especially important for protecting those at high risk for serious complications, including young children, pregnant women, adults 65 years and older, and anyone with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.

Getting vaccinated is the cornerstone of flu prevention, but it's not perfect and won't protect everyone equally, so it's key for everyone in the community to be vaccinated, both for their own protection and to



prevent the spread of flu germs. Our hands are one of the most frequent carriers of germs and viruses. Every person and every surface we touch is a source of contamination. One key piece of advice is found in Isaiah 1:16, "**So wash your hands. Make yourselves clean. Get your evil actions out of my sight! Stop doing what is wrong!**" (As I've said before, I love the Kid's Study Bible version.) Plain soap and water combined with rubbing your hands well are very effective in removing germs. Wet your hands, lather up with soap, and rub

all parts of your hands for 20-30 seconds (while singing "Jesus Loves Me" to yourself.) Then rinse well and dry. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer will work just as well when soap and water are not available, and they are placed throughout the church. Don't be insulted if someone declines to shake your hand when "sharing the peace," and if you are ill, **STAY HOME!** Drink plenty of liquids and get plenty of rest.

Now, back to the "sharing" part! We can *share* the standard chicken soup or other liquids with someone who is sick, or *share* their children by taking them out for the afternoon so the ill person can get some rest. We can *share* love, attention, hugs, prayers, daily needs, and God's love with everyone in need! We can *share* all our special traditional foods without over-indulging (most enjoyment comes from the first tastes, not the 10th or 20th)! Lastly, we can *share* a little physical activity with our friends and family after all those traditional treats, and then we can have another cup of cocoa after the walk outside!

So enjoy all the fun traditions of this holiday season, but also follow good health practices and "*Stop doing what is wrong!*" so that you and others can enjoy them to the fullest.

Stay smart, healthy, happy, and willing to share your blessings.....Jean

Christian Education and Youth & Family Ministries

Currently, your Christian Education (Sunday-school) and Youth and Family Ministries (YFM) are operating as a single unit and are ramping up to offer a myriad of fun and growth-inducing activities for kids from ages 2 to 102. As we all know, prayer and guidance from the Lord comes first. It is my joy to invite the entire congregation to begin a committed vigil of prayer, asking God to bless our growth process and reveal His desires for us here at Concordia. Let us adopt God's will as our own and move in the path He straightens before us.

After prayer and listening for the Holy Spirit's response, all plans are dependent on church members stepping up to become actively invested servants in the give and take of ministry. The YFM has rightly determined to establish and equip a pool of trained teachers, assistants, chaperones and/or other helpers needed for retreats, classes and many other fun events offered to our families. To offer events without said pool of leaders to draw from would be akin to placing the proverbial "cart before the horse" and often results in disappointment. Nowhere is it more fitting to proclaim that "it takes a village" than in the kingdom of God. Therefore, YFM is officially declaring a recruitment campaign within the church, drawing on the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given for our use.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

(Eph. 4:11-13)

In order to better facilitate our call to action, a questionnaire is in the making that has been proven to help determine the top two or three gifts that God has given each of us for service. This *Gifts Guide* questionnaire is simple and quick to complete. Be watching for it in the very near future.

In the meantime, please ask God to prepare your hearts for further service to Him and for the re-ordering of your priorities in this regard. Furthermore, we ask that you do not regard the pending status of the *Gifts Guide* questionnaire as a reason to delay stepping up and declaring yourself to be a willing servant. The details of future offerings will be revealed as we proceed. Together, we will decide where and how your abilities, equipping needs and personal needs can be carefully and prayerfully matched with opportunities to learn and to serve the Lord.

Equally as important as serving the body is the chance for each person to enroll in future offerings meant for your own growth and well-being. All offerings will be focused to spiritually feed the heart and soul. A healthy balance in feeding and being fed is the essence of kingdom living in the body of Christ here at Concordia and beyond. May God hear our prayers for guidance and bless us as we give and take of His provisions for our body and as we learn to live in His kingdom, sharing that joy together and with our neighbors.

*In His service and yours,
Chris McCarty
YFM Coordinator*

Are you the chaperone who's



taking us on our retreat?

Contact Chris (218) 390-6767 or at

clc.yfm@gmail.com



Services at Advent and Christmas

Advent Prayer

December 2, 9, & 19 at 6 pm

This Advent calm your life with prayer. Holden Evening Prayer is a quiet service that stills the hectic rush of life. Join others for prayer in the Chapel at 6 pm on the first three Wednesdays in December. Holden Evening Prayer is especially appropriate for Advent because it features the Magnificat, Mary's prayer of joy for being chosen to be the mother of the Christ Child.

Christmas Eve

4 pm

Christmas Day

10 am

Communion served.

Service followed by coffee & cookie fellowship.



Wise Men Still Seek Him

Men's and Ladies' "Night Out"

EVERYONE is welcome! Join fellow members of the congregation once a month for dinner and conversation at a local venue.

Ladies: Monday, Dec. 7, 5 pm at Shorty's

Men's: Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:30 pm, Vintage Italian Pizza (VIP)

Watch the bulletins and our weekly email for updates. Not getting our weekly email? Call the church office with your email address!

WORSHIP & LEARNING SCHEDULE

Sunday worship, praise, & fellowship:

- 8:30 am in the chapel
- Youth Choir rehearsal - 9 am
- 10:00 am in the sanctuary
- fellowship in the library following each service

Faith formation & education:

NO CLASSES December 23 & 30

- Confirmation for 6th - 8th grade at 4 pm on Wednesdays in the church library
- Wednesday School (formerly Sunday School), Wednesdays, 4 pm, downstairs in the newly remodeled space - open to 3 years olds - 5th grade, and parents/guardians are welcome to join

And be sure to join us for a lite meal at 5:15!

Watch for updates!

The following memorials are acknowledged by the church office:

In Memory of ~

Shirley Nelson

Bus, by Pete & Donna Quist, Ann Marie Novack
Roof, by Marie Lahti & Jim Severson, Bill & Carol Lindstrom, Arthur Peterson & family, Dick & Joy Moncel, Bill & Lois O'Neill, Dick & Jean Riedasch, Rhoda Pearthree, Nancy Burley, Audrey Hagen, Lynette Larsen, Judy Weber, Arlene Jacobson, Donald & Judith Smith, Janice Letsos, Ronald & Beverly Underdale, Linda & Richard Taber, LeRoy & Betty Eliason, Norman & Mary Jo Bartylla, Barbara Mattson, Rolf & Eunice Grimsrud, Roy & Marvis Harju, Jan & Bill Lippitt, Shirley Brandser, Richard & Janice Parish, D.R. & R.J. Lindemann, Gerald & Julie Peck, Alice Stack, James & Georgia Walsh, Patricia Luder, Esther Anderson, Roy & Marie Peterson, Audrey Pederson, Dennis & Linda Aho

Mildred Erickson

Altar Guild, by Arlene Jacobson

Undesignated, by Jordith Sloan, Jim & Kathy Helland, Susanne Rivord, Don & Nancy Krob, Tim & Amy Sharp, Jim & Darla Pappas, Dennis & Diane Motsinger, Glen & Kim Talmadge, Wayne Johnson, Dayton & Nancy Daniels, Don & Joan Daniels, Greg & Julie Durushia

Klara & Oscar Larson; Jim & Barbara Larson and David Larson

Worship & Music and Bus, by Ed & Luise Drolson

Louise Hoven

Roof, by Dick & Joy Moncel

You are invited...

...to attend an 80th Birthday Celebration for Florence Palm on December 19, from 2 - 4 pm, at Riverside Assisted Living Center, 885 Meadow View Circle, Pillage, MN 56473. Her apartment is #108 (if you would like to send a card - no flowers, please)



The following is a continued review of articles and artwork given to Concordia in memory of loved ones:

In the chapel, the eternal light on the altar was given in memory of Dorothy Setterstrom in 1957. The piano was a gift from Herdis Hansen. The Pascal Candle was given in memory of Roger and Margaret Erickson by Carol, Gary & Craig Banker. On the back wall is a painting of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with children. This was given in memory of Jane Oyaas, Margaret Haugner, and Selma Skudstad.

On the western wall of the chapel, the artwork shows important events in the life of Jesus Christ. These were given in memory of Lowell N. Mattson and Jeane B. Grimstad by their family and friends.

On the north wall in the hallway across from the church office is a painting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It was given in memory of Fern Thompson by her brother and his wife, Merrill & Maxine Thompson. Please check to see only two of the many ways she served the church.

In the church office is a reproduction of a Dali painting of Christ on the cross. This was given in memory of Mrs. Thea M. Anderson. There is also a handcrafted Jesus Cross made by Mike Johnson, a former mail carrier to Concordia.

In the library you will find a painting by Tony Yaworski, a famous artist of Superior. He was commissioned by Bill & Jeanne Downs to do this painting of our church which they later gave to the church. On the south wall are also pictures of confirmands. This wall hanging was redone and is maintained by the Heritage Committee. You will also find some display units made by the late Cliff Pearthree and Ed Lindegren. The display case on the north wall was given in memory of Jensine Nordquist (1895-1991). The Norwegian Bible in the display case was given to Concordia in 1939 by Prince Olav and his wife, Princess Martha. Prince Olav later became King Olav.

Above the shelves on the west wall is a plate done in rosemaling by Jeane Sword. That "sweet little couch" was also made by Jeane for the children to sit on when visiting the library. The clock on the east wall was given in memory of Albert C. Banker by his wife and son, Margaret and Gary Banker.

Watch for more information next month.....



"Hat-n-Mitten" tree is ready for your creations/purchases!
Get those knitting needles going and whip up a few pairs of mittens, some hats or some scarves....OR head out to the local stores and purchase new items. Bring them in to hang on the tree, and they will be delivered to those in need! THANKS!

A note from the Library Board...

The season of Advent is upon us, with Christmas quickly following! A busy time of year – preparing for the many and varied festivities that come with the season. We, on the Library Board, pray that your journey to the celebration of our Savior's birth be filled with meaning, love & compassion.

The library has a large selection of books pertaining to Advent & Christmas if you are looking for ways to improve or enlighten your Advent/Christmas season. If you have any questions, suggestions or requests, please leave a note or message for the library board. Your comments & input are greatly appreciated.

Board members have been busy processing new books, weeding out older less relevant books, dusting, cleaning and getting all “dressed-up” for Christmas! Remember, that this is YOUR library and we look forward to seeing you checking out some books!

Wishing you a “CHRIST” filled Christmas!
KEEP ON READING!

From Your Staff at Concordia
Lutheran Church ~
Warmest Wishes for a Blessed
Christmas
and a Joyous New Year!
Pr. Greg, Helen, Chris, Beth, Carol, Jean,
Aaron, Matthew



Advent Tea

Sunday, December 6

Fellowship Hall

following the 10:30 worship service

Come enjoy this annual event, hosted by the Concordia Lutheran Church Women (CLCW)! A lite lunch, followed by Christmas goodies, will be served. There will also be entertainment.

Preparations will begin on Saturday, December 5 at 9 am, and continue on Sunday morning. Thank you for your help!

Bakers: bring your goodies to church on Saturday or Sunday morning so they may be placed on serving trays...and thank you for your efforts!

Demonstrate your thankfulness this season

A Little Stewardship humor.....

“I have some good news and some bad news,” a minister told her Sunday congregation. “The good news is we have enough money to cover the monthly bills. The bad news is it’s still in your pockets.”

Each holiday season, Concordia anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of EVERY individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up

around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.concordiasuperior.org and locate the Online Giving button. OR - if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Altar Flowers for December

- Dec. 6 Given in memory of Christ Lien, Carl & Margaret, by Ruby Lien.
- Dec. 13 Given in memory of William Hansen and Fred & Carrie Jackson, by Mrs. Donna Hansen.
- Dec. 20 Given in memory of Mrs. Olive Bergren and husband, Eugene Bergren, by Mrs. Eugene Bergren.
- Dec. 27 Given in memory of Bill & Pearl Lovick, by Sandy Novak.

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

Keli Casey, President	715.398.6828
Matthew Eastman	218.409.9174
Diane Kruger	218.341.2704
Gary Jokela	715.392.8447
Carol Lindegren, Sec.	218.590.8238
Jan Lippitt	715.394.9158
Tom O'Neill, Vice-pres.	218.391.6139
Nick Pristash	715.398.0488
Eric Sewall	715.392.1559

Contact your elected church council member for information and concerns. Minutes from the church council meetings are available in the church library.

Don't forget to order scrip cards! They make great Christmas gifts - they work just like cash!

The DEADLINE for articles and information for "The Concordian" is the 15th of the month. Thanks for marking this on your calendar!

ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the main office by NOON on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Serving in December

Ushers

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| December 6 | Team II, Eric Sewall, Capt. |
| December 13 | Team III |
| December 20 | Team I, Doug Score, Capt. |
| December 24 | Team IV, Jane Meehan, Capt. |
| December 25 | Team III |
| December 27 | Team II, Eric Sewall, Capt. |

Bus Drivers

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| December 6 | Brett Quist |
| December 13 | John Gronski |
| December 20 | Ken Harmer |
| December 27 | Kris Hanson |

Scripture Readers

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| December 6 | Denise Latscher |
| December 13 | OPEN |
| December 20 | Doug Score |
| December 27 | Patsy Luder |

Greeters

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| December 6 | Mark Thompson |
| December 13 | Roy & Marie Peterson |
| December 20 | Leona Lindegren; Carol Lindegren |
| Christmas Eve | Denise Latscher |
| Christmas Morning | Denise Latscher |
| December 27 | Brett Quist |

Council Rep available

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| December 6 | Matthew Eastman |
| December 13 | Diane Kruger |
| December 20 | Gary Jokela |
| December 27 | Carol Lindegren |

Altar Servers

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| December 6 | Jeanne Downs; Patsy Luder |
| December 13 | Linda Aho; Joyce Olson |
| December 20 | Joy Moncel; Marie Peterson |

Financial Assistants

Marie Strom; Jean Stensland

Communion Assistants

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| December 6 | Jane Pietrowski; Nancy Burley |
| December 13 | Heidi & Daryl Kadrmas |
| December 20 | Rich Wnek; Patsy Luder |
| December 27 | Mike & Joyce Olson |

After-worship Fellowship Hosts

Sign up in the chapel hallway, folks! Ministries don't happen without YO_! (What's missing? "U"!)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2015</h1>						
		1 9 am - Staff meeting 11:30 - "20-minute Tues." 2 pm - Lydia Circle 4 pm - Just for Kix	2 9 am - Chapel Tree goes up! 10 am - Altar Guild 4 pm - Confirmation; Wed. School 5:15 - Meal 6 - Advent Prayer Service	3 2 pm - Service at St. Francis	4 9:30 - Library work group	5 9 am - Advent Tea preparations - join us for some fun!
6 8:30 - Worship 9 am - Program rehearsal 9:30 - Fellowship; BP Checks; Benevolence Bd. Mtg. 10 - Worship 11 - Advent Tea	7 5 pm - Ladies' Night Out at Shorty's 7 pm - Boy Scouts	8 9 am - Staff meeting 11:30 - "20-Minute Tues." 4 pm - Just for Kix	9 4 pm - Confirmation; Wednesday School 5:15 - Meal 6 - Advent Prayer Service	10 9:30 - Quilting 2 pm - Service at St. Francis 5:30 - Men's Night at V.I.P.	11 9:30 - Library Board meeting	12
13 8:30 - Worship 9 am - Program rehearsal 9:30 - Fellowship 10 - Worship 11 - Fellowship 2 pm - Community Meal at FUMC	14 6 pm - Property & Mgmt. meeting 7 pm - Boy Scouts	15 9 am - Staff meeting 11:30 - "20-minute Tues." 4 pm - Just for Kix	16 9:30 - Mary Circle 4 pm - Confirmation; Wednesday School 5:15 - Meal 6 - Advent Prayer Service	17 6 pm - Church Council	18 9:30 - Library work group	19
20 8:30 - Worship 9 am - Program rehearsal 9:30 - Fellowship 10 - Worship; Children's Christmas program 11 - Fellowship	21 6 pm - Worship & Music Committee	22 9 am - Staff meeting 11:30 - "20-minute Tues." 4 pm - Just for Kix	23 (No classes - winter break)	24 <i>Christmas Eve - office closed in the afternoon</i> 4 pm - Christmas Eve	25 10 am - Christmas Day Service with communion; fellowship follows	26
27 8:30 - Worship 9:30 - Fellowship 10 - Worship 11 - Fellowship	28	29 9 am - Staff meeting 11:30 - "20-minute Tues."	30 (No classes - winter break)	31 New Year's Eve - Ring in the new year with joy and thankfulness!		

Concordia Lutheran Church
1708 John Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

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Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve
4 pm

Christmas Day
10 am
Communion Served

Place label here

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synod website:

www.nwswi.org

Luther Point Bible Camp website

www.lutherpoint.org

ELCA website:

www.elca.org

resource center website:

www.synodresourcecenter.org

Rev. Tessa Moon/Jon Leiseth:

www.leisethfamily.wordpress.com

Rev. Greg Gullicksrud, Interim Pastor
Chris McCarty, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator
Helen Hankey, Organist/pianist
Beth Sobczak, Assistant pianist; Choir Accompanist
Carol Gucinski, Parish Administrator
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The Concordian

December, 2015

A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church
Superior, Wisconsin
715.394.3762
www.concordiasuperior.org

Rev. Greg Gullicksrud, Pastor

Worship Services

8:30 worship in the chapel

10:00 worship in the sanctuary

Communion served every Sunday.

Fellowship (coffee & goodies) in the church library after
each worship service.

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.