

# The Concordian

A Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church - ELCA  
Superior, WI December 2016

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



## *From the Pastor*

*I am writing this for the December newsletter on November 15, and things are changing quickly, so some of the things I'm seeing now may completely disappear by the time you read this message. Plus, I have no way to predict what might happen between the time of my writing and of your reading.*

*At this point, much of what I see in the actions of various people in this country inspires a sadness that is difficult to define.*

*I see anger. I see fear. I see arrogance. I see disbelief. Most of all, I think what I see is carelessness.*

*No, I don't mean what immediately comes to mind when we think of carelessness, of people doing things without thought, even though that may be part of what is influencing what I see.*

*The carelessness I see most prevalent today is really a lack of care for other people, particularly people who are different from themselves.*

*The most startling, in my opinion, is that between people who thought they were the same and now believe they are quite different. This is most visible in the results of our recent presidential election, with some people expressing shock that the people of this nation voted as we did.*

*I see anger. I see fear. I see arrogance. I see disbelief.*

*Most significantly, I see carelessness.*

*People with opposite views of Donald Trump as the President-Elect of the United States of America believe those on the other side do not care about them, and, they also seem not to care for the other side in return. I mean, it goes both ways on both sides. It might be as strong as hatred.*

*And this is our December newsletter. It is the month we celebrate the coming of Christ into this world. It is the time of the year we remind ourselves that God's love becomes tangible, that God becomes tangible, born into a time of political unrest in the teeming city of Bethlehem.*

*We love to sentimentalize the entire season, with pageants of children playing the parts of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, as well as shepherds and kings and angels—and sheep and donkeys and doves and cows... sometimes. We tend to overlook the scarier side of the story, of the kings deciding not to reveal to Herod where they had found the child, and of Herod's barbarism against the people of Bethlehem.*

## *From the Pastor.....continued.*

*How different is the world today than it was at the time of Jesus' birth? Yes, there are differences. News (both valid and rumored) travels instantly via electronic media. It no longer takes two years to travel from the East to Bethlehem... or even to the moon. We live in a country that governs itself, rather than in occupied territory. No king (or president) in our land would be able to do what Herod did and not lose his position.*

*Some things, however, are not that different. We still have people who fear the possibility of losing the power they have over others. We still have people oppressed. We have those who celebrate and those who mourn. Babies are still born into poverty or into riches and everywhere in between. Shepherds (or their equivalent) care for all kinds of creatures.*

*Just the other day, a long-time member told me that we here at Concordia have a reputation for not getting along. No matter how true or false that reputation may be, today, we are called to change it. Today, we are called to move beyond the perceived animosity so that Jesus Christ, the love of God, may be clearly proclaimed from this site.*

*As people react in fear, anger, arrogance, and disbelief, let us show forth a foundation of care, a foundation of God's love. Let us not fall victim to the carelessness of today's political strife. Instead, let us strive to move beyond those things that threaten, and instead live the love that God has gifted into our world and into our lives.*

*We are doing some good things to live God's love, and we have opportunity for more ways to live God's love in this congregation, in this community, in this nation, and around the world.*

*Primarily, in this time of unrest, let us make a special effort to treat all people well, as we love our neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen*

## **Letter from Special Olympics Wisconsin**

Dear Pastor Rowell and Congregation,

On behalf of the Superior Special Olympics Programs, we wish to thank-you for all of your help in assisting us with our 35<sup>th</sup> farewell Meatball Dinner. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated and has truly been the most important factor in the fundraising's success. The Moneys raised will be used to help offset expenses for the people with developmental disabilities from Douglas County to go to summer, fall, and winter competitions. We appreciate your ongoing support in this positive community event and are looking forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,

Terri Franson, Kevin Bolts, and Chris Backlund

## PARISH NURSING NOTES.....

Here we are, entering into the holiday season again. But, unfortunately, we are also entering into the flu season! So maybe this year, we can combine the two seasons together, and think about giving our family and friends the gift of good health—specifically, the gift of flu prevention.



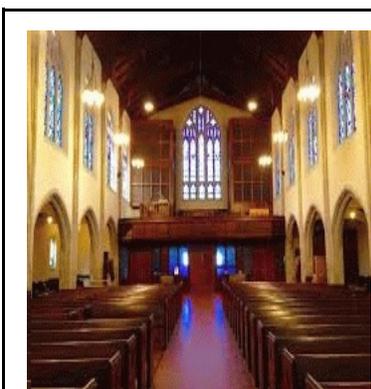
How do we do that? Well, it starts by getting a flu shot! If you don't get the flu, you are less likely to pass it on to others. But don't delay this first step. It takes about two weeks for the flu shot to become effective, so there's no time to waste! You can also encourage other family members and friends to get their flu shot!

But even beyond a flu shot, there are other things you can do to avoid passing on the flu to someone else. Christmas may be a time for sharing, but not sharing germs! These can be shared every time we touch a surface or object that has the flu virus on it, and then touching our own mouth, nose, or eyes—or touching someone else. We may not touch their mouth, nose, or eyes, but we may shake their hand. And then they will touch those vulnerable areas. We tend to think of public restrooms as a place where germs are shared. But railing, telephones, computer keys, light switches and many more objects are touched daily by multiple individuals. And we do not usually wash our hands before and after using them.. The flu virus can be passed on to others before symptoms are present, and up to 7 days after becoming sick. While the flu season can begin as early as October, most occurrences happen in January and February, and can last until May. So, if you haven't had a flu shot yet, get one!

This week of December 1-7 is known as *National Hand Washing Week*. Hand washing is an important part of not only flu prevention, but also many other respiratory diseases. The basic principles of *Hand Washing Awareness* include washing your hands whenever they are dirty (whether with visible dirt or not), and before eating or handling food. DO NOT cough or sneeze into your hands. Always use your elbow or tissues—and then wash your hands! And DO NOT put your fingers into your eyes, nose, or mouth! God Himself gave us these directions, *“So Wash your hands. Make yourselves clean. Get your evil actions out of my sight! Stop doing what is wrong Learn to do what is right!”* (Isaiah 1:16)

If you follow all these guidelines, then you will be free to focus your attention on the REALLY important traditions of the season—**giving thanks to God, and sharing His many blessings!** Enjoying love and laughter with family and friends brings another health bonus. While one minute of anger can weaken the immune system for 4-6 hours, one minute of laughter boosts the immune system for 24 hours! And giving and sharing lead to light hearts laughter!

This season, share gifts, blessings, love, laughter, and health!.....Jean.



### Help us Grow

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.

**Consider** scheduling a recurring electric contribution today. You won't need to write checks and prepare envelopes every week. And even when you can't attend services, your electronic contributions will arrive with out delay.

**Ask for an authorization form in the church office.**

## To Helen, with Love

Helen and Kendall Hankey joined Concordia on November 12, 1945. Helen had already been a member with her parents.

She became a guest organist at Concordia on the following dates: August 20, August 27, and December 24, 1950. She also played the organ for the American Lutheran Church Convention at Concordia in September of 1960.

Helen took a big part in the youth program led by Rev. Roger Herfindahl. A musical was started called "*A Few Skits and Songs About Things Right and Wrong the World, the Church, and You*". They were assisted by Harold and Lynette Larson and Helen, who played the piano. A group of 50 youth put together the musical which was performed in churches in Superior and Duluth.



When my mother died, my sister and I told Helen our mother had been a piano teacher and one of her favorite pieces to play was "*Doodely Doo*". We also told her Mother liked to sing "*Jesus Loves Me*" at the end of her life. SO when we walked out of the chapel at the end of the funeral service, there's Helen playing both songs. It helped both of us in our sorrow.

When Helen was practicing at the organ one Friday at church, Joy Moncel was getting the altar area ready for the Sunday service. All of a sudden she heard Helen playing her mother's favorite song "*How Great Thou Art*". It brought back happy memories to Joy of her mother.

Jean Riedasch's father died in 1984. At his funeral, her mother asked Helen if she would play "*Finlandia*", by Sibelius, as the casket was being wheeled out at the end of the service. With no advance warning, Helen played it beautifully. Jean's mother died 16 years later, in 2000. Neither Jean nor her sisters remembered their mother's request at her dad's funeral but Helen did. So while the casket was being wheeled down the aisle, Helen began playing "*Finlandia*" for Jean's mother. What a wonderful gift.

Before the early Sunday service in the chapel, Helen would play old, well-loved hymns instead of a formal prelude. One Sunday she played (along with many other hymns) the children's song, "*Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam*". After the service Jean told Helen how much she loved that song she learned from her mother—right after "*Jesus Loves Me*". After that, Helen played it often and she would always wink at Jean, and say, "For your Mama".

Jean also loved how Helen would play a fitting song during the offering, or after the service, whenever there was some special happening or anniversary of note that week. If someone's wedding anniversary was mentioned in the bulletin, she would play "*Here Comes the Bride*", or "*I Love You Truly*". If there had been a baptism, she would often play, "*Children of the Heavenly Father*", or "*Jesus Loves Me*".

But one that stands out for Jean was when we were having a fund drive and during the announcements, it was stated that we had reached a certain amount, almost at our goal. Helen started playing “*We’re in the Money*”!

During the restoration of the church Helen and Edna Fox made a tape with Helen at the organ and Edna at the piano. They sold the tapes and earned money for the restoration. Both of them were considered exceedingly excellent musicians.

Once at the first noon lenten service after Pastor Charlie arrived, at the end of the noon service, he announced that we would sing the table prayer before going into the library for our soup lunch. Helen had no advance warning of his play. He just started signing. By time he got to the second or third note, Helen picked up the on the piano in the exact key that he was singing and everyone joined in!

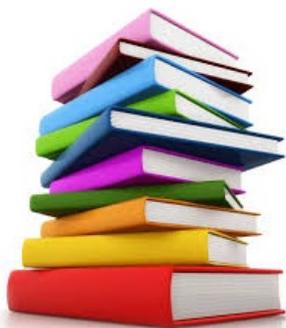
And Harmer Porter started playing the violin as a young girl. She was invited to lay a violin solo during church on Sunday. Her song was “*Morning Has Broken*”. Anne was going to play it once but Helen played it three times and then everyone thought Anne was a “star”.

Our church was blessed to have Helen, a talented musician, and loving person. Our loving thoughts are with you, Helen. Thanks for the memories.

### **Happenings in the Library**

Greetings from the Library Board. The season of Advent is upon us, soon to be followed by Christmas. A busy time of year – preparing for the many and varied festivities that accompany this time of year. We, on the Library Board, pray that your journey to the celebration of our Savior’s birth be one filled with meaning, love and compassion. As “Children of the Heavenly Father” we celebrate Christmas looking through the “Eyes of Easter”. That the “Gift” God gave us at Christmas is the only one we need.

We invite you to come into the Library during the Advent season to look over our collection of books pertaining to Advent and Christmas. Topics covered range from Devotional, meditative to enjoyable fiction. These books will be on display throughout the library, so please stop by to see if any appeal to you.



Wishing you a Meaningful & Blessed Christmas!

See YOU in the Library!

KEEP READING!

## December 2016- Concordia Events

### Mitten Tree

December 4

It's time for us to fill the hat and mitten tree!  
Bring your donations to make sure children  
have warm ears & fingers this winter!  
Tree will be in Sanctuary

### Advent Tea

December 4

Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to  
share at the Advent Tea Luncheon. Cookies  
should be delivered to the Church on Friday  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> or by 9 am Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Luncheon will take place after the service in the  
Fellowship Hall.

### Ladies Night Out

December 07, 2016

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

\$10/per person

Appetizers' and Drinks

Along with Holiday Music  
Ann Marie Novack's Home  
602 E 7th Street  
Superior, WI 54880

Please R.S.V.P. by December 1st to  
Church Office  
concordiasuperior@gmail.com  
call (715) 394-3762.

### Scrip Cards

Scrip Cards are available in the church office.

Applebee's	Barnes & Noble
Bath & Body Works	Chipotle
CVS	Domino's
Kwik Trip	Menards
Old Navy	Olive Garden
Panera Bread	Papa Murphy's
Shamrock Pizza	Subway
Target	Walgreens



**Poinsettias** will be purchased by the Altar Guild to  
decorate the chancel for Christmas. If you wish to  
memorialize or honor a loved one, you may make a  
donation in any amount to the Altar Guild  
Poinsettia Fund. A list of those memorialized or  
honored will be in the Christmas bulletin.



Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

## Altar Flowers for December

Dec 04	Given in memory of Christ & Anna Lien, Carl & Margaret Lien, by Ruby Lien
Dec 11	Given in memory of William Hansen; Fred & Carrie Jackson, by Mrs. Donna Hansen
Dec 18	Given in memory of Mrs. Olive Bergren and husband Eugene Bergren, by Mrs. Eugene Bergren
Dec 25	Given in memory of Bill & Pearl Lovick, by Sandy Novak

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

Gary Banker	715.392.2149
Nancy Burley	218.464.7086
Matthew Eastman	218.409.9174
Diane Kruger	218.341.2704
Carol Lindegren, Sec.	218.590.8238
Jan Lippitt, Vice Pres.	715.394.9158
Tom O'Neill, Pres.	218.391.6139
Nick Pristash	715.398.0488
Eric Sewall	715.392.1559

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

## Serving in December

### **Ushers**

Dec 04	Team IV
Dec 11	Team I
Dec 18	Team II
Dec 24	Team I
Dec 25	Team II

### **Bus Drivers**

Dec 04	Brett Quist
Dec 11	Kris Hanson
Dec 18	Pete Quist
Dec 24	OPEN
Dec 25	Brett Quist

### **Scripture Readers**

Dec 04	Kris Hanson
Dec 11	Gunnar Gronski
Dec 18	Pat Luder
Dec 25	Ed Lindegren

### **Altar Server**

Dec 04	Patsy Luder
Dec 11	Lois & Bill O'Neill
Dec 18	Jeanne Downs
Dec 25	Millie Score

**Financial Assistants** Marie Strom; Jean Stensland

### **Communion Assistants**

Dec 04	Ann Novack; Linda Aho
Dec 11	Jane Pietrowski; Nancy Burley

### **Coffee Hour**

Dec 04	Avent Tea
Dec 11	OPEN
Dec 18	OPEN
Dec 25	Christmas Day

***Be sure to check the coffee hour schedule on the bulletin board by the small kitchen. Sign up on a day that works for you!***

**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
1708 John Ave.  
Superior, WI 54880

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synod website:

[www.nwswi.org](http://www.nwswi.org)

Luther Point Bible Camp website

[www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org)

ELCA website:

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

resource center website:

[www.synodresourcecenter.org](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org)

Rev. Tessa Moon/Jon Leiseth:

[www.leisethfamily.wordpress.com](http://www.leisethfamily.wordpress.com)

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Johanna Rowell, Parish Secretary/Office Manager  
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Jean Riedasch, Parish Nurse  
Matthew Eastman, Custodian  
Aaron Kivisto, Custodian

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*Assembly/mailling:* Our faithful volunteers

# The Concordian

**December 2016**

A newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church  
Superior, Wisconsin  
715.394.3762

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

## **Worship Schedule**

**10:00 am on Sundays**

Communion served on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.  
Fellowship (coffee & goodies) in the church library after  
the 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.