



Concordia News

November 2012



Volume 7

A newsletter for members, families, and friends of
Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association

Number 11



Dear Members and
Friends of Concordia
Lutheran:

*The following excerpt comes from
Dr. Mark Roberts theological
reflections on Thanksgiving found
at the following link:
[http://www.patheos.com/blogs/
markdroberts/](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/) . .*

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A Season of Thanksgiving: Why Start Now?

“I’d like to spend the next few days focusing on Thanksgiving. That’s right, Thanksgiving. Yes, I know that the official American holiday falls on the fourth Thursday in November, not the third Monday. So, yes, I know that I’m a week early. But I’d like to begin to offer some thoughts on Thanksgiving.

Why start a conversation about Thanksgiving now? I do not mean in any way to undermine the specialness of the traditional holiday. I think it’s great that the United States continues to set apart a day a year for giving thanks. And I think it’s doubly great that most of us still believe that Thanksgiving is a day for actually giving thanks to God, not just a time for feeling nebulously thankful while filling our faces with a Turkey dinner and watching football on TV. My hope is that by writing about Thanksgiving a week and a half early, I might actually enhance your celebration of Thanksgiving, not detract from it. Thus, today’s post will be the first of several on giving thanks.

There is a danger, I believe, in identifying one day a year as Thanksgiving Day. It’s the danger of implying that thanks is due on this day, but not on others. We face a similar danger, for example, when we designate the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day. Shouldn’t children honor their mothers more than once a year? Similarly, shouldn’t we be thankful more often than once a year on the fourth Thursday of November?

As a Christian, I would argue that giving thanks to God is important because it honors God. I would also argue that Scripture calls for consistent gratitude among God’s people. But, there is also case for gratitude that doesn’t depend on biblical theology. In fact, it appeals to common sense and even self interest. To put the matter bluntly: Gratitude will improve your life.

Gratitude magnifies our experience of the good things in life, enabling us to enjoy them more thoroughly. Gratitude also helps us to endure the hard things in life with dignity, perhaps even with humor. Gratitude is like savoring a fine meal, enjoy every bite, rather than racing through a meal as if it’s some sort of race.”

As Pastor Roberts suggests, gratitude is not an annual phenomenon for Christians but rather is a daily event. When we awake in the morning instead of perishing during the night, we have reason for gratitude. When we lie down at night on our own bed in a safe and comfortable environment we have the basis for giving thanks. Gratitude is part and parcel of what it means to be a Christian. The most obvious, and sometimes most easily ignored reason is not for what we have but is for Who we have (in our lives). God gave us the greatest gift of all on the cross and in the empty tomb, his son Jesus Christ. He has given God back to us not as a fearsome and wrathful judge which, without Jesus, is all we would get or deserve, but as Abba, Father.

Perhaps practicing gratitude a little more each day as we approach Thanksgiving would be good for us. I am sure our generous and gracious heavenly father would not mind either.

Have a blessed day, or perhaps even days, of thanks this month.

God bless,

Pastor Bruce

Announcements and Assignments

Bad Weather – Bad Roads
Church Cancellations



Thank offering Service

Date: Tuesday, Nov 13
Time: 1:30
Lunch: Fryin' Pan



If the weather or roads are bad, check WDAY Channel 6 television or WDAY radio 970. We'll notify the stations so they can broadcast church cancellations.



Cookie Servers

November 4 Regina Hanson
November 11 Germaine Gress
November 18 Mavis Wang
November 25 Phylis Nelson
December 2 Irene Olson
December 9 Sally Horpedahl
December 16 Orpha Hoelstad
December 23 Delores Hagene
December 30 Becky Jetvig



Heating Season is upon us!

Donations to Concordia's general fund will help meet those costs and will be greatly appreciated!

VETERAN'S DAY
Sunday, November 11th

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.



Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid.

They have earned our undying gratitude.

America will never forget their sacrifices.

~President Harry S. Truman

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"The Prophet Isaiah" is the subject for Kids Corner in November. Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

~ President Thomas Jefferson

IT'S TIME TO DECORATE
THE CHRISTMAS TREE!
1 PM Saturday, December 1

Come and join the fun as we decorate the church Christmas tree at 1 pm on Saturday, December 1. After the decorations are in place we will celebrate the birth of our savior with the singing of Christmas carols. After the singing, Kathy and Orpha invite everyone for coffee and fellowship. Whether or not you help decorate, everyone can sing and have a cup of coffee. So join the fun, festivities, and fellowship. It is a great way to bring in the Advent season with our Christian friends.

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.

~President George Washington

Donations

Concordia General Fund

In Memory of Val Hagene

Osie Juve
Kjell & Orpha Hoelstad
Caroline Edwards
Tom & Sherry Watt
Ralph & Barb Grover
Lenny & Vonnie Swanson

Concordia Cemetery

In Memory of Val Hagene

Lloyd Gunderson Myron Hagene
Margie Brantner Irene Olson
Lois Jensen Ida Busby
Dorothy Powers Donald Johnson
Doris Kassenborg Helen Kassenborg
Verne & Carol Wik Bill & Kari Kinsley
Terry & Joy Eidem Dick & Mavis Wang
Al & Genelle Sather
Harold & Sally Horpedahl
Wescott Tommerdahl
Duane & Joan Erickson
LeRoy & Alice Horpedahl
Gordon & Sue Kassenborg
Dalan & Diane Rasmussen
Marietta Gunderson
Marvin & Jean Jacobsen

In Memory of Glenn Kassenborg

Kirby & Candace Kassenborg

In Memory of Partyke Family

Paul & Jenifer Partyke

Donation

Jane & Ted Bekkerus

Concordia News

In memory of Val Hagene

Lloyd Gunderson
Jim and Hazel Haarstad
Bonita Lilly

In Memory of Doris Eidem

Ella Swanson

In Memory of Lavonne Akers

Sylvia and Walter Teigen



Recipe of the Month Sweet Potato Casserole

Ingredients

5 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced
1/3 cup honey
1 large egg
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1/8 tsp ginger
1/4 tsp salt
1 tb dark brown sugar
1/3 cup chopped pecans

Directions

- Steam or boil sweet potatoes
- Whip potatoes until smooth, let cool slightly
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Coat 8 x 8 pan with cooking spray
- Add honey, 1/2 tsp cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and salt to potatoes. Mix well.
- Spread sweet potato mixture evenly in baking pan.
- Mix brown sugar, pecans and 1/2 tsp cinnamon together in a bowl and sprinkle on the sweet potato mixture.
- Bake until it starts to brown around the edges, approx. 45 minutes.



This year marks the 150th anniversary of **The Homestead Act**, which became law in 1862. It opened millions of acres of

federal land for settlement. Farmers had to remain on their claim for 5 years and make specific improvements to receive permanent title.

The Homestead Act was a key pathway to farm ownership along the Buffalo River. In fact, nationally Norwegians homesteaded more land than any other ethnic group!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our **Fall Dinner** a success. We couldn't have done it without you!
~Barb Grover

The First Norwegians to See the Buffalo

This is the continuation of the story that began in the October issue of Concordia News.

The men decided that the next morning A.O. and Andreas would set out south in the hope of finding the ox cart trail. Tarje and Osmund would remain behind with the supplies. It was the men's hope that A.O. and Andreas would be able to convince a driver to come and pick up Tarje and Osmund and all their supplies and bring them back to Alexandria. Failing that, perhaps they could hitch a ride to Alexandria, acquire horses, and return for Tarje and Osmund themselves.

One day and then two went by. Osmund began to wonder aloud if he and Tarje should strike out on their own. Tarje probably had the same thoughts, but he really didn't need to hear them spoken, and he certainly didn't want to discuss them. On a treeless prairie, there was no shade from the sun, and no protection from the rain. Hordes of mosquitos were likely their constant companions. What did they do for water? How many days and nights did Osmund and Tarje spend alone on the prairie? Questions without answers, but we know it must have been difficult and discouraging.

Finally they heard the creak of ox cart wheels, Hours later, the cart appeared on the horizon. A.O. and Andreas had convinced one of the *Meti* to undertake this rescue mission – for more than the cost of all 4 of their train tickets from Houston to Alexandria.

The group spent one last night on the prairie. They packed the ox cart and in the morning headed back toward Alexandria.

Our four adventurers had expected to have to pay for the lost horses, draining their wallets and forcing them to return to Houston County. Imagine their relief when they saw their 6 fine steeds in the corral next to the livery stable! The horses had walked home!

When the stable owner saw the 4 men, he said it was good to see them; everyone thought they were probably dead. The Norwegians asked why no one had set out to find them. They were a little taken aback when he replied that these things happened, and someone eventually came across the dead bodies and buried them. The Norwegians expressed their relief on finding the horses had

returned home safely, and explained they would have to discuss if or how many of them would restart the journey. The livery owner said the horses would be available for the same rent, of course. This irritated our four heroes; they had already paid for the full trip once. 160 years later, it's easy to see the liveryman's point. He'd given his best horses to travelers so foolish they didn't stake them on their first night on the trail. Even allowing the Norwegians to re-rent them probably seemed mighty generous to him!

Supplies had dwindled, much cash had been spent. Tarje volunteered to return to Houston on the next train. A.O. and Andreas determined to make the trip to the valley. If Osmund Homme joined them or returned home with Tarje is not clear.

There had been great interest in the party's "journey of discovery." No doubt sunburned and full of mosquito bites, Tarje apparently made it home from the train station in Houston without being noticed. Alex said that his father stayed on the farm until his friends A.O. and Andreas returned. None of them ever spoke publically about the debacle on the prairie.












On their second attempt, Andreas and A.O. arrived in Clay County, met with Probstfield, and found high ground along the Buffalo. When the Thortvedt party arrived in Clay County, R.M. showed them land far south of that which Kassenborg and Kragnes had indicated they wanted to claim.

A.O. would return in a couple of years with Torgrim Morken. They shared a cabin while making things ready for their families to join them on adjoining homesteads. Andreas remained in Houston County until 1875, when the railroad had reached Moorhead.

Tarje bought Ole Midgarden's homestead when Ole returned to Norway in 1874. As a result, he lived in the area of the original Buffalo River settlers, miles from his good friends A.O. and Andreas.

During the terrible flood of 1896, Kassenborg Point became an island, and Andreas' farmstead remained high and dry. A. O. went round to his flooded neighbors inviting them to relocate to his untouched homeplace until the waters receded. The two of them certainly had found the high ground next to the Buffalo ... on their 1869 visit to the Valley!

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Alene Sladky 	2 Alex Amundson 	3
4 GREEN Communion 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship 	5	6 Election Day 	7	8	9 Neil Hanson 	
11 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship Ruth Farabee  VETERANS DAY	12	13 WELCA 1:30 pm 	14	15	16	27
18 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	19	20 	21	22 THANKSGIVING 	23	24
25 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	26 	27	28	29	30	31

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You can also visit our website at: <http://www.concordianews.org> and click on "Newsletter" to read the current or past issues of Concordia News in regular or large print, change your address, sign up to receive the newsletter by mail, or request an email notification when each newsletter appears on the website.

The Concordia News is published monthly by Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association.

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Articles, announcements, acknowledgements, photos, etc. should be given to the editor.

To submit an item for the newsletter:

E-mail: news@concordianews.org

Write: Karolynn Teigen-Decker
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Moorhead MN 56560

Deadline for submission of material is the 20th of each month

Concordia Lutheran Church/Cemetery Assoc.

6637 80th Avenue North

Glyndon, MN. 56547

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www.concordianews.org

**You are always welcome at
Concordia Lutheran Church**

Handicap Accessible

Sunday Worship:

Coffee Hour: 9:00 a.m

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Communion: 1st Sunday of the month

Concordia Women of the ELCA:

Second Tuesday: 1:30 p.m.

Pastor:

Bruce Krogstad

Office: 218-233-0459

Cell: 218-329-2245



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