

Concordia News – Large Print

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Volume 11

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

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As we approach the long anticipated day of the birth of our Lord, I commend to you the following article from our synod Bishop, Larry Wohlrabe. May you and yours have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Life Overflowing: Incarnation

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:15

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. I

Corinthians 12:27

Gods work. Our Hands. (Tagline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

Stir us up

Advent passes by way too quickly. Every December I want to linger longer in the season of Advent with its royal blue paraments, lush

prophecies from the Old Testament, and those amazing “stir up” Prayers of the Day in Sunday worship.

Here we are, all tucked into the most nostalgia-laden time of the year, fuzzy slippers on our feet, hot chocolate poured up. ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ plunked into the DVD player ... and then on the Sundays in Advent we pray that God will SIT UP His power in our midst.

God with skin on

And exactly what sort of change does God work in our lives? It has to do with the Incarnation, God’s reckless decision to take on human flesh in Jesus. Incarnation is about an event, a person, and an ongoing reality. Here’s a tried-but-true illustration: A father was putting his 4-year-old son to bed. The entire bedtime checklist was completed: tucked in, story read, trip to the bathroom accomplished, night light on. Enough! Dad kissed his son and tried to escape. But as he exited the bedroom, the boy cried out that he was still scared to be alone. “Don’t worry, son,” his dad responded. “Jesus is with you.” “I know that Jesus is always with me, Daddy,” his son replied, “but right now I need someone with skin on.”

When the Word became flesh and tented among us (John 1:15), God acted decisively to say, “I intend to be the God with skin on – for you, for all people, and forever.” The Incarnation (“carne” is a Latin word meaning “flesh” or “meat”) is the event we prepare for during Advent

– the once-and-for-all occurrence of Jesus’ birth as Immanuel (“God with us”) “in the fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4-5).

In one sense this is an utterly unique, unrepeatable act of God intervening in human history. Advent prepares us to celebrate the Incarnation (event) of the only begotten Son (person) of the Father. In another sense the Incarnation is also an ongoing reality. The same Lord Jesus Christ who lived, suffered, died and rose again continues to be enfleshed in the Word proclaimed, the Baptism poured out, the Supper served up, and the community that bears Christ’s name in the world.

God’s skin on a new body

Just the other day at our local Anytime Fitness gym, I saw a fellow exerciser wearing a t-shirt that proclaimed “DON’T GO TO CHURCH..” and then, in smaller letters, right underneath: “Be the church.” Bingo!

In the living, breathing church of today we see the Body of Christ – the way that God still has skin on through the real gathered-scattered community that embodies the risen Lord Jesus in the world. Here we behold another manifestation of the abundance of God – God’s life overflowing, that has been the subject of these monthly columns in Northern Lights this year. Jesus the risen and living One continues to be incarnated in all that the church is and does. In the Church we

behold God's skin on a new Body – the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27).

This means, among other things, that the Church embraces us through our lives of faith. The church precedes us – we are born into it. The church succeeds us – it outlives our earthly lives. The church therefore belongs to none of us. It's not my church, your church or even our church, to do with what we please. The church is God's Body, God's business, God's gift to us and to the world.

God's skin on you

What happens corporately in the church is also enacted personally in our individual lives as baptized Christians – disciples of our living Lord. When God claimed you in Baptism, God decided to take up residence within you – fancy that! “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.” (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

So you, right now, are a bearer of God's Incarnation strategy – God's risky way of getting close to us to make us new in Christ. The great Scottish missionary to India, Lesslie Newbigin (1909-1998) showed how God's saving of us is intimately aligned to God's sending of us to bear Christ to others. He wrote: “The corporate nature of the salvation which God purposes is a necessary part of the divine

purpose of salvation according to the biblical view that no one could receive it as a direct revelation from above but only through the neighbor, only as part of an action in which he opens his door and invites his neighbor to come in. ... There is no salvation except in a mutual relatedness which reflects that eternal relatedness-in-love which is the being of the triune God.” Lesslie Newbigin, *The Open Secret* (1978, Eerdmans), p. 85.

“Be born in us today...”

As we conclude the year with the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I invite you to keep your eyes peeled for signs of how the Incarnation is simultaneously an event (the Nativity of our Lord), a person (Jesus, “God with us”) and an ongoing reality in our lives as Christian individuals and members of the Body of Christ. If you watch carefully, you will see hints of the Incarnation all around you – opportunities, invitations to live out the ELCA tagline: “God’s work. Our hands.”

And surely, you will hear this rich understanding of the Incarnation in the songs of the season. For example, notice God’s incarnation strategy in the 4th stanza of Phillips Brooks’ beloved carol, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”;

O Holy child of Bethlehem

Descend to us, we pray

From Pastor Bruce

*Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bruce



Coffee and Cookie Servers

December 4	Mavis Wang	January 1	Clinton Babolian
December 11	Orpha Hoelstad	January 8	Irene Olson
December 18	Clinton Babolian	January 15	Orpha Hoelstad
December 25	Kathy Krogstad	January 22	Delores Hagene
		January 29	Becky Jegtvig



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, December 7

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Concordia Ladies



Date: Tuesday, December 13th

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Ella's home

Join the ROMEOS!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m. Friday, December 27 - Fryn' Pan



Pastoral Care

If you know of someone who is in the hospital or would like a home visit please let me know. I can be reached at 218-329-2245.

Thank you! *Pastor Bruce*

The lesson for Kid's Corner in October is "The Time Between the Old and New Testaments" Kid's Corner is located in the congregation section of our website.



Veterans Coffee Hour

Fargo Air Museum

1609 19th Avenue North, Fargo

Wednesday, December 14

10 a.m. – Noon



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Christmas Eve - 5:00 pm

Christmas Day – 10 am

Cancellations

The pastor & president will decide on cancellations of worship and other activities. If the temperature is forecast to be minus 20 or below, services will automatically be cancelled. A phone chain will be used to notify members and participants. We will also notify WDAY Channel 6 television/WDAY radio 970.



Honor Flight

My daughter Nancy and I got to spend 2 days in D.C. October 2-3. Honor Flight arranged it so my sister Ruth and family could be with us also. What a surprise! We've never been treated so royally, almost like a king. Everything was so well planned, first class. We were able to see lots of memorials plus General Colin Powell. We had a police escort moving from memorial to memorial. They even shut down the interstate so we could pass.

I urge all veterans to apply for a trip. You'll never forget it. I felt very honored.

Harold Horpedahl

With Our Thanks

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Fund

In Memory of the Partyke Family

Paul & Jenifer Partyke

In Memory of Harold & Lucilla Anderson

Keith Anderson

In Memory of Marlene Bekkerus

Lloyd Gunderson

In Memory of the Bekkerus Family

(Ruth) Jane Bekkerus

Concordia News

In Memory of Harold & Lola Anderson

Keith Anderson

In Memory of Ardoth Kragnes

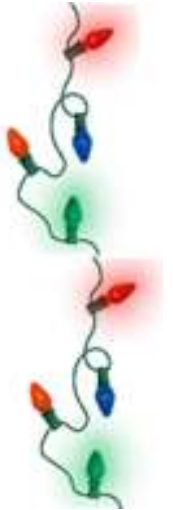
Orpha & Kjell Hoelstad

With Our Thanks

Many Thanks!

...to all who came to help or support decorating Concordia for Christmas! Thanks to Kathy and Orpha for organizing the festivities.

A special note of thanks to **Colleen Edwards** for donating and helping with the candy bags and to **Ernie Edwards** for adding those wonderfully delicious Wisconsin apples.



THANK YOU!

.... to all the coffee & cookie servers whose treats make Sunday morning coffee a special time of fellowship throughout the year.



Rommegrøt Bars

Ingredients

- 2 pkg. crescent roll pastry sheets
- 2 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/3 cup sugar (divided use)
- 1 egg separated
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 - 1 tsp cinnamon



Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Grease 9 x 13 baking pan.
- Press one package of crescent rolls on bottom of greased pan.
- Mix together the cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, the egg yoke and the vanilla. Spread mixture over crescent rolls
- Cover with the remaining package of crescent rolls.
- Beat egg white until foamy and baste over the top of the crescent rolls
- Mix together 1/3 cup sugar and the cinnamon. Sprinkle over the top crescent roll layer.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until golden brown.

Cool, cut and enjoy!

Bits and Pieces



The Bible is the cradle where Christ is laid.

~Martin Luther



From the Moorhead Daily News

December 16, 1930

Social News

Wayne Rice is busy hauling gravel to be used on the new grade at Concordia Church.

December 24, 1931

Church Notes

Concordia: Regular Christmas services at 11 o'clock; Christmas Tree Festival, Saturday, December 26 at 2:30 o'clock.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study 5:30 p.m., Wednesday December 7

Concordia Ladies 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 13

Veteran Coffee Hour 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14

ROMEOs 7:30 a.m., Friday, December 27

Birthdays

December 2 Clinton Babolian Gordon Kasssenborg

December 16 Paul Decker

December 17 Delores Hagene

December 28 Bev Edenberg

December 29 Kristine Lynde

Anniversaries December 26 Sue & Cary Sip

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