

Concordia News – Large Print

February 2018

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

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. This year we will be using Jesus "I Am" statements from the Gospel of John. Worship services will follow a 5:00 simple supper. We will be using material prepared by a Luther Seminary preaching professor, Dr. Caroline Lewis. Note the summary below:

Working Preacher's Lenten Series this year focuses on the "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John for the sake of intentional reflection on and proclamation of God becoming flesh.

Let me say that again -- God becoming flesh. The cross is many things; but first, it is the death of God. Let that sink in.

The "I AM" statements are more than just a novelty of the Fourth Gospel -- they reveal, in all fullness (John 1:16), the identity of Jesus. "Obviously," you might be thinking.

But Lent is the season to remember one very important thing about what it means to be a Christian: that *when Jesus goes to the cross, there goes God.*

Jesus as this one-and-only God, this unique God (John 1:18) is the distinctive claim of Christianity. Yet in today's world what's said and believed about Jesus has the tendency to divide Jesus' humanity

from Jesus' divinity. Our Christologies seem comfortable with choosing one or the other, depending on whom we need Jesus to be in a certain time or place -- or, for a certain purpose.

The Gospel of John reminds us -- which, during Lent, is an especially important thing to remember -- that to believe in Jesus is to hold the *fullness of Jesus' humanity and Jesus' divinity together*.

"What difference does this make?" you might be asking. Well, when we collapse Jesus' humanity into Jesus' divinity, it gets harder to imagine the purpose and pathos of the cross. After all, if that was God nailed to a tree, to what extent was that true suffering? And when we minimize Jesus' divinity, it becomes easy to reduce Jesus to an above-average teacher, miracle worker, and advocate for the poor.

The challenge of Lent is to *negotiate these simultaneous truths* -- and how to admit our own truth regarding **which** Jesus we prefer. Otherwise, all too often, Jesus ends up being trotted out and used to justify moral claims as if God were not a part of the picture.

A word about grammar may be useful here. The "I AM" statements in John are of two varieties: the absolute "I AM" statements in which there is no qualifier, and the "I AM" statements with a predicate nominative. And yet the point of both is to hold both together. Each time Jesus says, "I AM," the entirety of the "I AM" statements stands

behind this revelation. And every time Jesus says, “I AM the bread of life, I AM the light of the world,” the fullness of the absolute “I AM” statements stands behind this claim. When we keep this in mind, we begin to see that if we try to separate God and the Word made flesh, we have likely missed the point of Christianity altogether.

Consider the following quotation, circulating on Pinterest boards and throughout social media:

“I AM. Two of the most powerful words; for what you put after them shapes your reality.”

This Lenten series helps us imagine that what Jesus puts after “I AM” in the Gospel of John shapes **our** reality.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bruce



Grant that I will not pray only from the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.

~Martin Luther

Coffee and Cookie Servers

February 4 Becky Jegtvig

March 4 Lloyd Gunderson

February 11 Gordon Kassenborg

March 11 Linda Koester

February 18 Polly Hanson

March 18 Sue Kassenborg

February 25 Sylvia Teigen

March 25 Carolyn Edwards



Bible
STUDY
Join us!

Bible Study

Wednesday, February 7

5:30-7:00 p. m.

Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, February 13

1:30 pm

Fryn' Pan



Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m., Friday, February 23

Fryn' Pan



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

This month's story is "The Bronze Serpent." Kids Corner is located in the congregation section of the website.



Veteran's Coffee Hour

Join your fellow veterans at the Fargo Air Museum from 10-noon Wednesday, February 14.

Annual Meetings



February 4

A potluck will follow morning services. Volunteers needed to set up before and clean up after the meal.

Concordia's annual meeting will follow the meal.

The **Cemetery Association annual meeting** will follow the congregation's meeting.



Open Cemetery Board Seats

There are two vacancies on the cemetery board. Consider volunteering! It isn't a time-consuming job, but it is an important one. You can find out about what's involved by speaking to any current board member.



Cancellations

Services will be cancelled when the wind chill exceeds minus 20 degrees or when NOAA (the National Weather Service) advises "No Travel." WDAY TV and radio should broadcast the cancellation, but a few times they have not. When in doubt, do not hesitate to call Pastor Bruce the day of at 218-329-2245. If you reach voice mail he may be talking to someone else, so please leave a message and he'll return your call.

Lent Begins February 14



- February 21
- February 28
- March 7
- March 14
- March 21

Supper at 5 pm - Services follow

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In memory of Donald Johnson

Bev Edenberg

In memory of Glenn Kassenborg

Kirby & Candace Kassenborg

*Thank
You*

Thank you to all who joined in to take down and put away the Christmas decorations!



Heating Season

is upon us! Your donation to the general fund will help us pay for heating this winter.



Food Shelf Donations

can be placed in the donation box located in the narthex.



Your Donations

can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or event. We'll send confirmation of your gift to the address you provide.

General Fund

Make checks out to Concordia Lutheran Church and mail to:

Neil & Polly Hanson
7312 90th Avenue North
Glyndon MN, 56547

Concordia Newsletter

Make checks out to Concordia News and mail to:

Walter Teigen
915 4th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560

Concordia Cemetery Association

Make checks out to the association and mail to:

Ray Johnson
7333 70 St N
Glyndon MN 56547

Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies

Ingredients

1 cup peanut butter 1 cup sugar
1 large egg 1 tsp vanilla
36 chocolate kisses



Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- In a large bowl, mix peanut butter and sugar well.
- Add vanilla and egg, beat until thoroughly blended
- Roll into 1" balls and place 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet
- Bake for 10-12 minutes. Tops of cookies should be slightly cracked
- Remove from oven and immediately place a kiss at the center of each cookie
- Allow to remain in pan about 5 minutes before removing them.



from the *Moorhead Daily News*

February 6, 1929

Page Four

“Social News”

Ernest Gorder, son of the late E. J. Gorder, and Miss Viola Norby, daughter of Mrs. Ole Norby, Kragnes, were married Saturday evening at the Trinity parsonage. The young people will make their home on the Gorder farm near Kragnes. Mrs. Norby entertained at a dinner Sunday at her farm home in honor of the bride and groom.

February 22, 1929

Page One

Gunder Lee, Clay Pioneer, Dies

Gunder Lee, Clay County pioneer, died at his home in Moland Township last night. The deceased came to Minnesota in 1870 and settled in Houston County. A year later he came to Clay County where he lived for 58 years. He was born in Norway in 1850.

Surviving are his wife; a daughter, Signe, at home; Mrs. Clarence Grover, Perley; Mrs. Oliver Ellingson, Brady, Mont.; Selma,

at home; Fred, at home; George, Fargo ND; S. O. Lee, Thief River Falls.

Funeral services will be held from Concordia Church, Rev. Mel Hagen officiating. Burial will be in the Concordia Cemetery.



Wednesday, February 14

Lupercalia was one of the oldest Roman festivals and occurred on February 15. It honored Lupercus, the god of shepherds. The celebration also paid tribute to Faunus, the god of agriculture, and Romulus and Remus, founders of Rome who were cared for by a female wolf, or *lupa*.

In 496 CE the Emperor Gelasius replaced the popular pagan festival with a feast in honor of sainted Christian martyr Valentinus. (There were actually three Catholic saints named Valentinus.)

In the Middle Ages, a Valentine's Day legend grew in popularity. About 270 CE Emperor Claudius outlawed marriage for young men because he thought single men made better soldiers. Valentinus, a Roman priest, defied the order and secretly continued to perform marriages. He was executed on February 14th.

The association with romance was strengthened by the long-standing tradition in Northern Europe that February 14th marked the beginning of the birds' mating season.

Chaucer linked the engagement of King Richard II to Valentine's Day in a poem he wrote in 1381. The oldest known Valentine is a poem written by the Duke of Orleans in 1415. By the 1700s, exchanging Valentine cards and gifts was well established.

Valentine's Day was removed from the Catholic calendar in 1969, but it remains one of the most popular secular holidays around the world. In the U.S. Valentine's Day ranks number one in sales of candy and fresh flowers, 2/3 of which are red roses. For restaurants, it is second only to Mother's Day. Over half of single women surveyed said they would end a relationship if their boyfriends didn't give them a Valentine's Day gift!



In 1885 Washington's Birthday was established as a federal holiday to honor the first president on his actual birthday, February 22. In 1971 the Uniform Monday Holiday Act created more three-day week-ends. "President's Day" was created to honor all American presidents on the third Monday of February. Several states continue to have separate holidays for Washington, Lincoln, and others.

President's Day Car Sales



Every President's Day weekend car sales surge by about 25 percent. Why does the third weekend in February create such a car-buying frenzy?

When Washington's Birthday became a national holiday in 1885, bicycling was the craze of the day. Bicycle dealers decided that, with most businesses closed, this was the day to roll out the new spring models. Washington's Birthday became 'Bicycle Day.' By the turn of the 20th century, motorcycles were the hot commodity and continued the tradition As the automobile took center stage, so did Washington's Birthday car sales. When Washington's Birthday became President's Day, always celebrated on the 3rd Monday of February, the one-day transportation deals of the past have become a weekend car sale extravaganza!

Q: Why didn't they play cards on the ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck!



Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

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

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 4 following worship

Potluck – Congregational Annual Meeting -
Cemetery Association Annual Meeting

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

Concordia Women 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 13

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

Lenten Services Wednesdays – February 14, 21 and 28

5:00 pm – Supper - Services following

ROMEOS 7:30 a.m., Friday, February 26

Birthdays

2 Verne Wik 15 Susan Ruud

17 Becky Jegtvig

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To submit an item for the newsletter:

E-mail news@concordianews.org

Write: Sylvia Teigen

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Moorhead MN 56560



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