

# Concordia News – Large Print

## October 2018

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

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## From Pastor Bruce



Our bishop, Larry Wohlrabe, was recently honored to speak at a nationwide ELCA youth gathering. Uncharacteristic for a pastor his message was short. Characteristic to his gifts as a preacher it was impactful. As the pastor to all congregations of our synod, I pass it on below.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bruce*

Here in Acts 8 we meet a fellow who's having the most significant day of HIS life. We aren't told his name. All we're told is that he was from the East African nation of Ethiopia; he was a eunuch (whatever that means); he was his queen's treasurer; and he was traveling between Jerusalem and his homeland.

Just a few scraps of information – that speak volumes about this man:

- He was a *foreigner* of a different race from a different country

- He was a eunuch – a slave who (like other slaves in the ancient world) had been castrated early in life so he could be completely devoted to his owner
- And he was the queen’s slave, in charge of all her money: a lowly slave with lofty responsibilities.

But why was this black man from East Africa traveling between Jerusalem and his homeland?

I think it’s because **he was a spiritual seeker** like so many folks nowadays – especially youth and young adults. Though presumably raised in the religion of his homeland, somewhere along the line he was drawn to the Jewish faith. He honored the God of the Jews, traveled to Jerusalem for Jewish festivals and read the Jewish scriptures, our Old Testament which is exactly what he was doing, as he rode in his chariot through the desert, from Jerusalem back home to Ethiopia.

And fortunately, the eunuch wasn’t alone on that desert road. A Christian named Philip was there, too, encountering the eunuch just as he was reading from the prophet Isaiah about a mysterious “Suffering Servant” who faced humiliation, barrenness and death.

This Bible passage was getting under the eunuch’s skin, causing him to wonder: “Who in the world was Isaiah writing about?”

I wonder why this question bugged him so much. **Was it because the eunuch saw something of himself in this passage?**

After all – like Isaiah’s “Suffering Servant” – the eunuch had been “sheared” – shorn of his manhood. He had tasted the bitterness of humiliation. He had been cut off from having a family of his own.

“Who’s the prophet writing about?” the eunuch pleads with Philip ... and Philip responds by telling him “the good news about Jesus.”

Just exactly what Philip said next, we aren’t told. But maybe it went something like this:

***This mystery person, this suffering servant who experienced all the crummy things you have experienced – he has a name, and his name is Jesus.***

***He was born, taking the form of a slave. He spent his whole life serving people in the lowliest ways. When his enemies hoisted him up on a cross, his life was cut off. His body was thrown away, discarded like so much garbage, buried in a borrowed grave ... a grave that could not hold him! After three days Jesus burst out of his grave – alive again, nevermore to die again!***

***And Jesus went through all of that so that he might now live his unending life through you. As a fellow Christian friend***

***of mine likes to say: “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” (Galations 2:19b-20)***

As surely as Philip shared with the eunuch “the good news about Jesus” ... God’s grace, God’s underserved riches in Christ were poured over the eunuch when he was baptized.

That was his “this changes everything” turn-around moment.

Nothing that people were always noticing about him – his skin color, his status as a sexual minority, his “foreginness,” his lowly status as a slave, his lofty responsibilities as the Queen’s chief financial officer – nothing that people might have known about him held this man back from **going his way rejoicing ...**

...and, as an ancient church tradition suggests, when the eunuch reached home, he too (like Philip) told others “good news about Jesus” and thus helped plant Christianity in Ethiopia.

My young friends, you belong here – even though you might think there are 101 reasons why God could never choose you to love and embrace and forgive and send into his service.

But God thinks of you, God comes up with 101 reasons why you are JUST the kind of person God needs, a beloved child through whom Jesus chooses to live and move and have his being.

None of the ways we get all hung up on “sorting ourselves out” in this world matters, none of it matters one little bit to God.

God’s grace calls dibs on you and everyone else who has ears to hear.

God’s grace in Jesus Christ changes everything.

God’s grace sends you to tell others “the good news about Jesus.”

God’s grace calls you as surely and as certainly as anything could ever be.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## Coffee and Cookie Servers

October 7	Carolyn Edwards	November 4	Becky Jegtvig
October 14	Clinton Babolian	November 11	Polly Hanson
October 21	Barb Grover	November 18	JoLyn Johnson
October 28	Germaine Gress	November 25	Irene Olson



**Bible**  
STUDY  
Join us!

### Bible Study

Wednesday, October 3  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

### Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, October 9  
1:30 p.m.  
Fryn' Pan



### Join The Romeos!

*Retired Old Men Eating Out*

7:30 a.m., Friday, October 26  
Fryn' Pan



## Pastoral Care

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact

Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.

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This month's story is "Martin Luther's Wife" 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, Wednesday, October 10.

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## Daylight Savings Time

## Ends

## 2:00 am, Sunday, Nov. 4

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## Congratulations!



Graham and Megan (Zhang) Taylor exchanged vows at Concordia on the afternoon of Wednesday August 1, 2018. Graham is the son of Alene (Grover) Sladky and the late William Taylor. Megan is a special education teacher in the master's program at the University of Minnesota. She is from a small town near

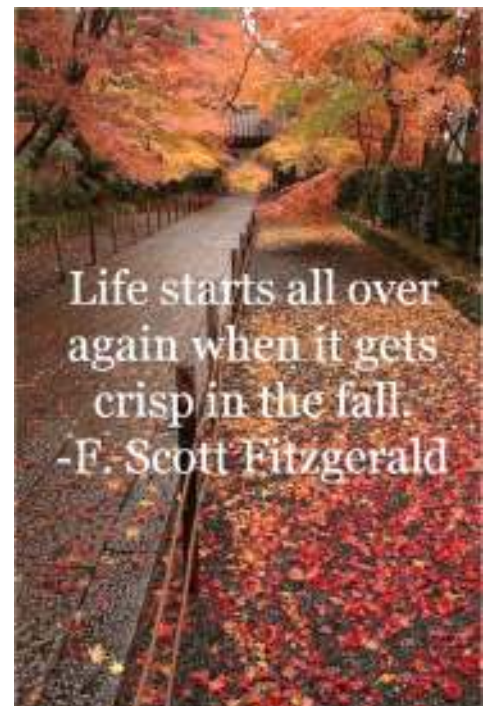
Beijing, China. The couple lives in Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

Thanks to Pastor Bruce for a very special ceremony.

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**Fall Begins**

**September 22**



# Janice (Kassenborg) Parnell

**1939-2018**

Janice Parnell of North Hills, California, died August 13, 2018. Services were held August 22 in Whittier, California.



She was born February 9, 1939, the daughter of Ben and Alice (Grinde) Kassenborg and was baptized at Concordia.

Janice leaves behind a son, David, of Kingman, Arizona. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Donald, an infant sister and a toddler brother. She and Gordon Kassenborg were first cousins through both parents.

Her cremains may be buried at Concordia in the future.

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The clock of life is wound just once,  
And no one has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop,  
At late or early hour

*~Robert H. Smith*

With Our Thanks  
**Donations**

**Concordia Cemetery Association**

*In Memory of Eva Hedstrom*

Lloyd Gunderson

John & Nancy Hammett

*In Memory of Richard Skrei*

John & Nancy Hammett

*In Memory of Donald Johnson's birthday*

Bev Edenborg

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**Sunday**  
**September 9**

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Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

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# Skillet Cheesy Loaded Potatoes



## Ingredients

8 pcs. bacon, sliced into 1" pieces

3 russet potatoes, thinly sliced

8 oz. grated cheddar cheese

Salt & Pepper

2 TB sour cream

3 sliced green onions

## Directions

- In a large skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Place on a paper towel and set aside.
- In the same skillet, add potatoes and sprinkle with salt & pepper. Stir so all slices are coated with bacon grease. Cook until potatoes are tender.
- Sprinkle with cheese. Cook until bottom of potatoes are brown and cheese has melted.
- Sprinkle with onions and bacon and dot with sour cream.

*from the*  
**Moorhead Daily News**

**September 7, 1923**

**Page Four**



**Remains of Ole Swanson are interred at Buffalo River Cemetery**

The funeral of Ole Swanson, prominent Kragnes farmer, who died on Tuesday, from injuries he suffered in an auto accident, was held this afternoon. Short services were held at the Wright chapel here, following which the remains were taken to Concordia church on the Buffalo River, where services were held. Rev. Mr. Wickre officiated. Interment was made in the Concordia church cemetery. The services were scheduled to be held on Thursday, but were postponed owing to the bad conditions of the roads following the rain.

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Labor Day was 'invented' as a way to focus attention on work-related issues. In the 1830s, manufacturing workers were putting in 70-hour weeks on average. Union organizers promoted an 8-hour work day and a six-day work

week. Surprisingly, many politicians and business owners were actually in favor of giving workers more time off. That's because workers who had no free time were not able to spend their wages on traveling, entertainment or dining out. Shortening the work week was one way of turning the working class into the consuming class.

Around the world, May 1<sup>st</sup> is a common day for recognizing the contributions of the world's workers. Because it was initiated and supported by Marxists, Socialists and Communists as a day for protest, American labor leaders decided that a September celebration that focused on parades and picnics was a better way to create progress in our democratic society. The first Monday in September was chosen because it fell halfway between the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Thanksgiving.

Matthew McGuire was a radical member of the Machinists Union and was likely the man behind the holiday. However, more moderate union leaders thought it would be better politically to have a less controversial name associated with the holiday, and credited a man named Peter McGuire as its chief organizer.

The goal of Labor Day's organizers was to bring workers from many fields together and help them understand they all had common interests that could be championed by joint (union) representation.

Unfortunately, there was no employer or government support for this holiday, mostly because of fears that it would be a day like those in Europe for protests and possible violence.

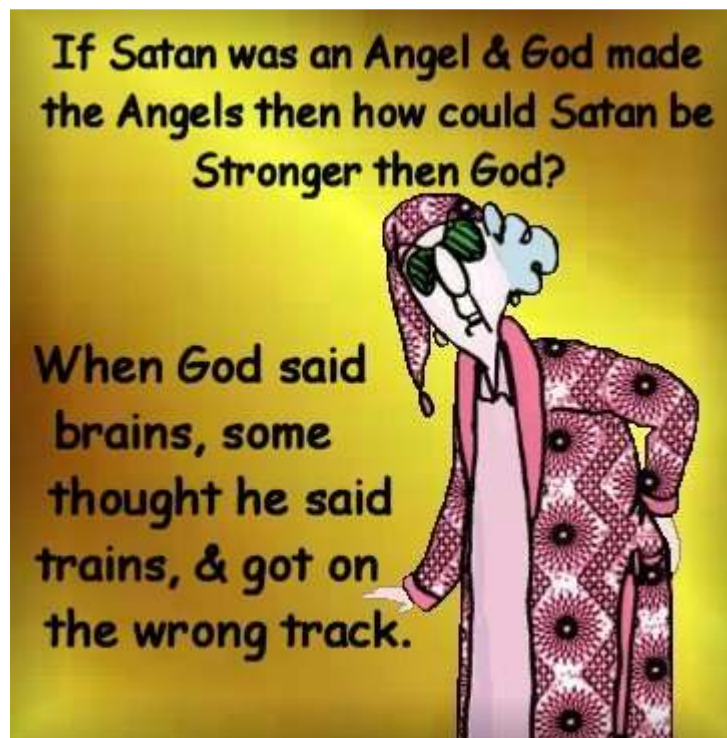
The first Labor Day in New York in 1882 was actually a one day strike. “Striking” workers were expected to march in a parade and afterwards attend a picnic. At the picnic, unionists and politicians made speeches (that the New York Times reported as dull and boring). It was a peaceful celebration that pleased workers, unionists and politicians. The public at large seemed to approve of a day of positive celebration of the contributions of labor to the country.

Within 12 years, half the states had instituted Labor Day holidays. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland declared Labor Day a federal holiday. Although it technically only covered federal government workers, that action encouraged the rest of the states to follow suit. In 1968, the “Uniform Monday Holiday Act” formally established the first Monday in September as the national Labor Day holiday.

Over the years, Labor Day has come to represent the unofficial end of summer. Its connection to labor unions and workers rights has largely been lost, but there are still parades and speeches in some communities. Although many school districts now begin their

school year in August, it is still considered a final week-end for families to plan outings and picnics with their children and extended families and friends before school and related activities take over their schedules.

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# Dates to Remember

## ***Worship Services every Sunday***

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

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

***Bible Study***                      5:30 p.m.   Wednesday, September 5

***Concordia Women***              1:30 p.m.   Tuesday, September 11

***Veteran Coffee Hour***      10 a.m.,   Wednesday, September 12

***ROMEOS***                      7:30 a.m.,   Friday, September 28

## ***Birthdays***

September 9   Doris Kassenborg

September 13   Sylvia Teigen

September 18   Ernest Edwards

## ***Anniversaries***

September 9   Neil & Polly Hanson

September 23   Dick & Mavis Wang

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*To submit an item for the newsletter:*

**E-mail** [news@concordianews.org](mailto:news@concordianews.org)

**Write:** Alene Sladky

6938 State Hwy 200 NW

Laporte MN 56461



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**Concordia Newsletter Staff**

**Editors:** Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen

**Treasurer/Distribution:** Walter Teigen

**Web Edition:** Alene Sladky