

Concordia News

Large Print Edition

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

December 2010

Volume 5 Number 12

Contents

A Word from the Pastor	Pg 2
December Announcements	Pg 4
Donations and Thank You's	Pg 10
Recipe of the Month	Pg 11
Christmas at Concordia	Pg 12
December Calendar	Pg 24
Credits	Pg 25



Luke 2: 1-14

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Have a Blessed
Christmas!**



Meeting: December 14, 2010 Noon

Bible Leader: Group

Lunch: Potluck

Cookie Servers



December 5 Irene Olson

December 12 WELCA

December 19 WELCA

December 26 WELCA

January 2 Delores Hagene

January 9 Mavis Wang

January 16 Polly Hanson

January 23 Doris Kassenborg

January 30 Becky Jegtvig



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*



Concordianews.org

“Christmas in Norway” is the subject for Kids Corner in December. Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

Looking for a specific recipe or article in a past issue of the *News*? All of the issues going back to 2006 are searchable in the “Newsletter” section of the website.

Church
Bulletin
Bloopers



The jazz choir delighted us with a rousing rendition of “Angel We Have Heard Get High.”



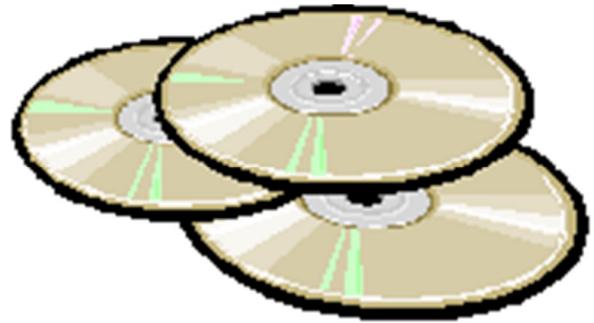
Christmas Potluck **December 5th** ***Following worship***

Christmas Gift Suggestion

The DVD of Concordia's tribute to its veterans might be just the thing for that hard-to-buy-for family member. At \$10, the price is right!

Send your check, made out to the

Cemetery Association, to Ray Johnson or use the handy order form in the Cemetery section of the website.



Concordia Congregational Mission Fund

This past summer, Lost and Found Ministries in Moorhead received a \$250 mission grant from Concordia's mission fund which was used to purchase the following DVDs by Father Martin:

"Enabling and Detachment"

"Relapse"

"Recovery and the Family"

"Recovery and Forgiveness"

"Spiritual Aspects of Alcoholism"



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:

Lloyd Gunderson

105 3 St N

Moorhead, MN, 56560

Concordia Newsletter

Make checks out to Concordia News and mail to:

Valdemar Hagene

6756 70 Ave N

Glyndon, MN 56547

Concordia Cemetery Association:

Make checks out to the association and mail to:

Ray Johnson

7333 70 St N

Glyndon, MN 56547



Gravestone Repairs Needed

There are lots of gravestones that need work. Some of them need lots of work and some just need lifting but it would be

nice to have them done before they get too bad. It will take some money to get these stones repaired so any help would be appreciated. Send donations to the cemetery association (address on page 2). The following stones need work:

Agerholm(tall stone)

Glen Anderson

Thomas Anderson

Bekkerus – Mgiles baby (this is a bit unclear)

Christine Bragge

Severt Bragge

Walter Engesetter

Gorders

Tomina Gorder

Tina Jensen

William Jensen

Olenna Juve

Allard and Allette Kragnes

Anne Kragnes

Aanund Kragnes

Carl Kragnes

Herbert Kragnes

Olena Kragnes

Ole Lee

Signe Lee

Large Midgarden stone

Obe Morken

Sidney Morken

Oberg lot

Olness lot

Tall Olson stone

Tilda Nora

Amelia Sather

Leroy Sentif

Skrei lot

Ted and Tilde Skrei

Skrei Twins

Gertie Snartland

Swanson

Jean Thortvedt

Orabel Thortvedt

Thank You – to Val Hagene for mowing and caring for the Leif Erickson Cemetery this past summer.

Thank You - to Andy Ulven (Doris Kassenborg's grandson) and his family for mowing and trimming Concordia Cemetery this past summer.



Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Everett Hite:

Val & Delores Hagene

Jim & Hazel Haarstad

In Memory of Walter Engesetter:

Lois Jensen

In Memory of Robert Jones:

Kristi & Gregg Trautwein

In Memory of Rose Gytri:

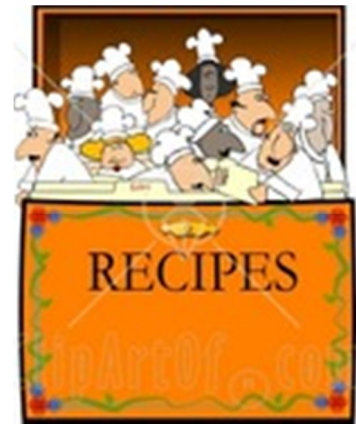
Kristi & Gregg Trautwein

In Memory of Partyke Family:

Paul & Jennifer Partyke

Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Truffle



Ingredients

- 2 single layer gingerbread cake mix
- 1 large vanilla cook & serve pudding mix
- 1 29 oz can pumpkin
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 12 oz tub whipped topping

Directions

- Make gingerbread per package directions, using two greased 9-in. round baking pans. Cool completely.
- Make vanilla pudding using directions for pie on the package. Cool to room temperature.
- Combine pumpkin and brown sugar; stir into pudding. In a 4 qt glass serving bowl:
- Crumble one gingerbread cake and press into bottom of the bowl
- Spoon in half the pudding mixture
- Cover with 1/2 whipped topping
- Repeat the three layers
- Cover and refrigerate overnight. Garnish with small Christmas candies and/or nuts

Memories of Christmases Past at Concordia

Thank you to all who contributed their memories of Concordia Christmases. We wish there had been more! A few contributors wanted to remain anonymous, and we have honored their requests.



Decorating for Christmas in the 1920's

On the Buffalo in 1870

It was customary in those days among the Norwegians, to have a big stack of wood behind the stove for Christmas Eve. We children were busy getting this done.

The greased lamps were set aside and the home made candles lit. The whole family washed thoroughly and their best clothes were put on. A *Jule Salme* (Christmas hymn) was sung at the Christmas supper table.

Christmas trees were not in use those days, but it was customary to “shout in” the Juletide. Ole Anderson went outside and shot in Christmas.

The horses, cattle and sheep got the best hay we could find also on that night.

Hymns were sung and the sermon read from Dr. Martin Luther’s book of sermons. We had a good Christmas and the New Year was at hand, the first in this new country...

Levi Thortvedt

From the Moorhead Daily News

March 26, 1938

Norwegian Services

My grandpa always took me along to the Norwegian language services at Christmas. I remember standing in the pew right next to him and whispering in his ear, “What’s he saying now?” every minute and a half ... how Grandpa got anything out of it I will never

know! I loved the musical lilt of Thomas Anderson speaking in Norwegian. The Christmas songs I already knew in English were new and interesting when sung in Norwegian, too.

Concordia was never a congregation known for its singing, but at the Norwegian services even I was aware of how much better it sounded. People who mumbled through every hymn on regular Sundays seemed to sing with gusto in the language of their youth. There was a sense of joy that was palpable, even to a young 'un like me.

I was a little wary of the older women, sitting together with their tight buns, support socks, Red Cross shoes and stern demeanors. Somehow at these gatherings they seemed transformed. Speaking what was no doubt their "first language" seemed to soften them and bring out the smiles. They patted my head and talked to me in Norwegian with a twinkle in their eyes, and didn't scare me a bit!

Sunday School Programs

The best part of Christmas at Concordia was that it lasted one day longer than anywhere else. Every year on December 26th all of Concordia's Sunday School kids gathered in the morning for a final rehearsal of the Christmas program. The altar rail was tipped on

end, covered in black cloth, and the outline of Bethlehem was carefully pinned into place.

Esther Kragnes was a wonderful superintendent. She knew just how to put us through the paces and get us “all in a row.” On regular Sunday School days, we kids took turns playing piano for the singing, but for Christmas Lydia Grover was always there to play for us, and we always sang so much better with her talented piano playing as an accompaniment!

After our dress rehearsal, a busy afternoon back at home was spent getting my hair put into pin curls (remember them?), and putting the finishing touches on whatever costumes my brother and I were wearing that year. My dad would give his seal of approval after the final practice of my piano solo. Mom made sure that our Christmas “pieces” were memorized and recited properly. A quick meal, and back to the church for the Sunday School program. Being at church in the dark of night, with the Christmas tree lights sparkling and “Bethlehem” as a backdrop made every year’s program a wonderful celebration.

After the program, there were presents from my Sunday School teacher and a friend or cousin or two, Christmas cards from my classmates - and a much anticipated bag full of peanuts, hard candy, and chocolate drops. For us kids, the coffee hour that

followed was anti-climactic, but the grown-ups seemed to thoroughly enjoy the chance to drink coffee and trade Christmas stories.

All the dads made sure the cars were warm and toasty when it was time to go home. It was a wonderful way to bring each Christmas to an end, and made Concordia's Christmas the very best around!

~Alene Sladky

What I remember about Christmas at Concordia was that there was always a tree decorated in the front of the church and one in the basement between the doors after you entered the big room. There was the annual re-enacting of the birth of Jesus Christ. Turning the altar into a stage with a tin foil Star of Bethlehem, Sunday School students dressed as angels, Mary & Joseph, Shepherds and the Three Wiseman. I remember a couple of years where Kevin Koester had a solo song, and I believe he sang "We Three Kings". After the service was over, there was a pot luck downstairs, and there was the singing of Christmas Carols. The Sunday School students received paper bags filled

with all sorts of candies, shelled peanuts and a red delicious apple.

The detail is getting fuzzy with age. I remember a couple of years where the Sunday School Students had gifts under the tree in the basement.

The whole evening was a great family affair for all and a great annual tradition.

Then when it was my 2nd year of Confirmation classes, I learned that it was the Confirmation Class who decorated the Christmas trees. Or at least it was us that year.

~Ernie Edwards

Christmas Programs at Concordia Church were exciting and busy. They were held on December 26 so that there was always an extra day to look forward to celebrating. We had been practicing for weeks to learn our parts and to sing the carols and play our instruments. There would be trumpets, clarinets, flutes, and violins as well as piano solos. There would be angels and shepherds and the three kings in the front of the church and the altar would be raised to give more room for the “stage” and the manger scene. Then the day arrived with all the excitement,

trepidation, and nervousness to conclude with everyone getting that wonderful bag of peanuts and candy with the special red apple. There was always some hard candy and the chocolate covered ones that we only got at Christmas. It was so special to bring home the bag to munch on later.

Later as a Sunday School teacher, I realized the work involved getting ready for the program as well as the excitement that still made its way into the performance. We would start learning the songs in October and practicing all of the pieces until we were able to present the Christmas story in words and music. There was the stress of writing the program and carefully dividing or adding lines to be certain that all the children were “on stage” the same number of times depending upon their ages and that the parts were equal in length. It was important that all of the children were special and were able to shine in the “spotlight” for their parents and relatives. We were sharing with the congregation the wonderful story of Christmas. Then we also had to have the bags of candy that we remembered and the apples.

We had a potluck after the program and sang more Christmas carols in the basement and passed out the presents and cards to everyone who was there. People would bring their Christmas cards to share with others that day under the tree and it was always

an exciting time when we could relax after the program was over. And there was always the knowledge that next year would be another program and another important day to plan for and create. And Christmas was special at Concordia Church. Remember when.

~*Sylvia Teigen*

I remember how much fun it was after the program when the entire church sang carols in the basement near the lighted Christmas tree with our bags of ribbon candy and red apples. When Christmas comes around now I always get very nostalgic and I will buy ribbon candy and red apples and think about how no matter what was going on during the year, at Christmas everyone in church would be unified. Sometimes the teachers gave Christmas ornaments to their students and I still put mine on the Christmas tree every year.

An amusing memory I have of our programs was when Kyle Kragnes, Jennifer Grover and myself were the Kings. We were practicing and started to sing 'O Holy Night,' right at the part of the song when you sing "fall on your knees" Kyle being as tall as he is fell to his knees very dramatically. My mother was in charge of the

program and failed miserably with her teaching abilities and couldn't help but laugh.

~Karolynn Teigen Decker

Festival Offerings

At Christmas and Easter, when it was time to take the offering, the plates stayed on the altar, and everyone walked up and put their offering there. Then they walked behind the altar and back down the steps to get back to their seats. Finding out what was behind the altar was a great thing although if you stopped too long to look and slowed the line down, your mom would grab your hand and yank you through to the other side.

Special Memories

We went caroling to the older members and oh how they loved to see us come. There was always a treat like fatiman, other Christmas cookies etc. Our visits brought tears to a lot of eyes. I remember so well singing for Esther Kragnes and oh yes Lawrence Olson. It was a wonderful time.

A couple years we had a Saturday fun day. We ate, baked and made ornaments and then played some games.

When Becky Jegtvig was the superintendent she put on such a beautiful program. She did a great job.

When Sylvia Teigen was superintendent, she wrote so many great Christmas programs, too. They gave a beautiful message. Everyone had a part and no one was left out. Everyone looked forward to dressing up in costumes for the nativity scene. Beautiful Christmas songs were sung.

The older members came out in force. I remember walking in and seeing Edna Juve at the top of the stairs, watching people come in. She was such a beautiful woman. Ernie, Sally, Louise, Edna, and Lena and Ed Kassenborg were always there. Fred Lee and his wife. Venla would sit quietly and listen to everyone, Julia Olson was there with a smile, and the Hanson brothers were always there, too, and so many others, too many to name. Oh how everyone, young and old, loved those candy bags.

Junior Choir

I remember being part of the childrens choir, that we called the junior choir, with red collars and big black satin bows worn on what

I think were just white dish towels with a head hole in the middle that was closed with a hook and eye. They were always crisply ironed and starched and looked very nice. I remember the year we sang “Ye er so glad” in Norwegian and after church so many of the grandmas and grandpas came up to us and told us how nice it was of us to sing for them in Norwegian and how good we did.

Concordia was a place you could learn to do things in front of other people. The older people were just so happy for anything you did and their compliments came from the heart you could tell. I have always been thankful for that and the lessons I learned at Concordia from the Sunday School teachers, and being in choir and Luther League, have helped me more than I could ever have guessed back when I was just one of the kids proudly singing in my dish towel choir robe.

Still Making Memories ...

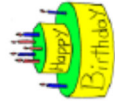


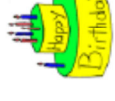

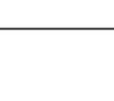



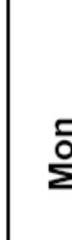

It's good to be reminded of the treasured memories from Christmases past, but we shouldn't forget that Concordia continues to make Christmas memories for its members.

Whether it's the tree trimming parties, Christmas dinners at the church, or the simple act of worshipping together, members of Concordia continue a long tradition of fellowship and family. Congregations are brought together and invigorated by their celebrations of Christmas, and that has always been true of Concordia. Tracing back to Fyresdal Township in Telemark County, Norway, some of our member families have been celebrating Christmas together for over 300 years, and we hope the tradition continues for many more.

Glory to God in the Highest! Peace on Earth, Good Will To the Concordia family!



December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Valdemar Hagens	2  Clinton Babbiam	3	4
6  6:00am Coffee 10:00am Church POTLUCK Communion		7	8  Kris Lynde	9  Paul Decker	10	11
13 12 BLUE 9:00am Coffee 10:00am Church		14 WELCA Noon	15	16  Delores Hagens	17 	18
20 19 BLUE 9:00am Coffee 10:00am Church		21 1st day of winter 	22 	23	24	25 
27 20 WHITE 9:00am Coffee 10:00am Church		28	29 	30	31	

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

The Large Print Edition is available only on the Concordia News Website, <http://www.concordianews.org>.

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

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

Concordia Newsletter

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