

Concordia News – Large Print

August 2011

A newsletter for members, families,
and friends of

Concordia Lutheran Church and
Concordia Cemetery Association

Volume 6

Number 8



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From Pastor Bruce

Greetings in Christ,

The events in Norway focus our minds on human sinfulness, the reality of evil and the limitations of human free will. Luther emphasizes that humanity is in bondage to sin and cannot free itself.

Few countries identify themselves as being peace loving more than Norway. Murder is rare compared to the United States. We are desensitized to violence as we are fed daily reminders of it on the news. So when there is an event of this magnitude, Norwegians are truly shaken. Initially I had thought that this would be Norway's 9/11. My primary suspects were initially Jihadists. Now it appears that this will be Norway's Oklahoma City, given that the perpetrator of these horrors was one of their own. This of course pours salt

into the fresh wound. How could one raised in such a prosperous, peace filled country be capable of such atrocities? The optimistic view of human nature which is the underpinning of modern Norwegian government/society is being shaken to its core. One can only hope that the guilt of what may be one man acting alone will not be converted to shame and transferred to the Norwegian people. This will certainly be a time of introspection, anger and sadness. Healing will come slowly. Hopefully this will be a time also of spiritual renewal as people turn to the only source of consolation in the midst of things that few of us can understand. In the end we know that these forces of chaos and evil will be defeated at the victorious return of Jesus Christ and up till then we know that God has promised to be with those who claim the name of Christ.

God bless,
Pastor Bruce

Announcements and Assignments



Date: August 9
Time: 1:30
Lunch: Regina Hanson



Cookie Servers

Aug. 7	Barb Grover	Sept. 4	Doris Kassenborg
Aug. 14	Delores Hagene	Sept. 11	Becky Jegtvig
Aug. 21	Mavis Wang	Sept. 18	Orpha Hoelstad
Aug. 28	Polly Hanson	Sept. 25	Germaine Gress



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*

“On the Buffalo” will return next month with excerpts from the newspaper serial written by Orabel Thortvedt and published in the *Fargo Forum* in 1941.



Concordianews.org

“Joshua and Jericho – Part III” is the subject for Kids Corner in July. Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

From the Ole & Lena files



Ole was turning 88 and overweight, so his doctor put him on a diet. “For two weeks, I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least 5 pounds.”

When Ole returned, he had lost nearly 30

lbs!

“That's amazing!” the doctor said, ‘Did you follow my instructions?’

Ole nodded. “I'll tell you though, I thought I vuz gonna drop dead on dat 3rd day.”

“From the hunger, you mean?’ asked the doctor.

Ole: ‘No, it vuz all dat skippin!’”

With Our Thanks

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of the Partyke Family

Paul & Jenifer Partyke



A Big Thank You

To all the ladies who turned in their Lenten Calendar money. It really helps so we can meet our budget items.

Thank you again, *WELCA Officers*

What a Great Day!

On Sunday, July 17th, over 50 friends of Concordia, most from Telelaget and the Hadeland Lag, joined us for a special worship service and remembrance of Pastor Bendik Bondahl. For these two groups it was the final event of the 7-Lag Stevne that began on

With Our Thanks

Thursday the 14th in Fargo.

The temperatures were sweltering but with the help of a lot of fans the church stayed tolerably warm as Concordia's "men's choir" delighted the visitors with their anthem sung in Norwegian, and Kjell Hoelstad read the day's lessons in Norwegian. Many said that taking communion together in this historic church was the most meaningful part of the service.

We were honored to welcome Pastor Bondahl's granddaughter, Adonna Galusha, her husband, Bud, and their son Scott who deserves special thanks for offering to make the long drive from Washington to Minnesota so his mom and dad could attend this special event.

After worship, Telelaget sponsored a brief service at the grave of Bendik Bondahl. He was the first president of Telelaget and Concordia's minister from 1904 until his death in 1908. Jim Skree, secretary of Telelaget, read a biography of Pastor Bondahl. John

With Our Thanks

Haugo, president of Telelaget, and Bondahl's granddaughter Adonna laid a wreath on his grave.

Everyone was treated to a great lunch that featured barbecues, baked beans, and cole slaw. Kathy Krogstad's two *kranssekaker* (Norwegian ring cakes) were beautifully made and delicious to eat!

After lunch, there was a brief talk on the history of Concordia. It was pointed out that the pastor in the confirmation class picture on the wall in the basement is none other than Bendik Bondahl.

Many lingered to chat with friends and new-found Concordia cousins as this memorable Sunday came to a close.

Special thanks to Pastor Bruce and Kathy Krogstad, Sylvia and Wally Teigen, Kjell and Orpha Hoelstad, Karolynn Decker, and Phyllis Nelson for putting together a great worship service and a very special day!

Alene Anne Sladky

Member of the boards of Telelaget and the Hadeland Lag

Pictures from Services on Sunday, July 17th



Scott, Adonna, and Bud Galusha
Adonna is Pastor Bondahl's granddaughter

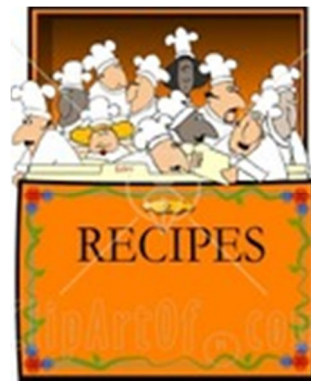


Men's Choir singing in Norwegian during the service

Recipe of the Month

Barbecues for 60

Regina Hanson's Recipe



Ingredients:

- 9 pounds ground beef
- 9 chopped onions
- 2 ½ cups ketchup
- 3 Tablespoons salt or less
- 4 teaspoons pepper
- ¼ cup prepared mustard
- ¾ cup flour
- 3 ¾ cups tomato soup (3 cans)
- 5 teaspoons chili powder *or* 1 (28 oz.) can chili beans-mashed

Directions:

- Brown meat, add onions and brown together.
- Make a paste of the flour and other ingredients, add to meat and mix well.
- Simmer ½ hour to blend flavors.

May add more spice if desired. Mixture does not get greasy because of the flour. 50 pounds of meat equals 300 servings of barbeque, with 6 barbeques per pound of meat.

Biography of Pastor Bendik Bondahl

Read at the

Graveside Service of Remembrance



Bendik Gunnarssen Bondahl was born in Telemark *Fylke* Norway on December 4, 1868, the son of Gunnar B. and Ashild Taraldie. Bendik came to Minnesota at age 21 in 1890. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead from 1891-1892. Bondahl boarded with the Ed

Braudwick family in Minneapolis while he attended the United Church Seminary from 1893-1900. After his ordination in 1901, he was called to serve a congregation in Racine, Wisconsin.

Pastor Bondahl became what we would now call an “opinion maker” even before he graduated from seminary. He served as editor of the publication *Seminariet*, and wrote often and articulately about the

Bits and Pieces

important issues of the day in the Norwegian language newspapers in Madison, Wisconsin, Decorah, Iowa, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota. He counted the much older Norwegian poet John Lie a good friend, and he developed strong relationships with many of the leaders of the Norwegian-American community.

At the turn of the twentieth century, there was a strong movement in the Norwegian immigrant community to organize and actively preserve the culture and traditions of the “old country.” When newspaper editor Rasmus Andersen and Reverend Henrik Voldal decided to introduce the notion of “*Det Norske Selskab*” or Norwegian Society to promote interest in Norwegian history, art, literature, and music, they sought out Bondahl’s support.

The organizational efforts were almost derailed by vicious arguments over the meaning of “good literature” (which some believed did not include Henrik Ibsen) and membership (some believed that only “good” Norwegians – that is, Norwegian Lutherans who were members of congregations in good standing - should be allowed to join). Bondahl

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spoke of the importance of the society's intended mission, and urged people not to get bogged down in parochial disputes. By-laws were passed and, for his efforts, Bondahl was elected the first president of the Norwegian Society, an office he held until his death.

In 1904, Pastor Bondahl was called to Concordia, and he leaped at the chance to return to this large Telemark congregation in his home area. He filed his formal petition for and was in due time granted U.S. citizenship shortly after being installed as Concordia's pastor.

Beginning in 1899, immigrants from Norwegian communities had begun creating *bygdelager* as a way of preserving individual community traditions and dialects. The Society saw a role for itself as an umbrella organization that could provide a way for the groups to communicate and coordinate, and actively encouraged immigrants from specific locales to organize.

In 1905, Rev. Bondahl began to actively lobby for the creation of such a group for Telemark. His efforts came to fruition in 1907, when Telelaget was organized in Fargo, North Dakota. As had been the

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case with the Norway Society, Pastor Bondahl was the natural choice to serve as Telelaget's first chairman.

Bendik Bondahl seemed to be blessed with enormous energy. Despite all of his work with Norwegian-American organizations, he remained dedicated to serving the needs of his congregation. He was also, by all accounts, attentive to his family. Pastor Bondahl arrived at Concordia with his wife Gudrun and their infant daughter, Agnes, who was born in 1903. Their son Olav was born in 1907.

As the saying goes, the candle that burns brightest seems to burn out twice as fast. Tragically, Pastor Bondahl succumbed to tuberculosis of the spine on August 8, 1908. His son Gunnar was not quite 3 months old. Pastor Bondahl himself was only 39.

Pastor Bondahl's funeral was the largest that had ever been held at Concordia Church. Mourners filled the church and spilled into the surrounding yard. Friends, colleagues, and leaders of the Norwegian-American community came from all over the upper Midwest and as far away as Chicago to attend his funeral.

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After his death his wife Gudrun, who was trained as a nurse, moved the family to Moorhead. Because of her twelve-hour workdays and the tender youth of her children, her sons were sent to live with relatives – Gunnar in Minnesota and Olav in Montana. Agnes remained with her mother, although Gudrun's parents took on primary responsibility for their granddaughter.

As a teen-ager Agnes moved with her mother to Mandan, North Dakota and followed in her footsteps, becoming a nurse. Gunnar and Olav would not meet again until the early 1950's, and sadly, Olav was killed in an accident in 1954.

Gunnar married Alyce Villa in 1934, and served in World War II. He died in 1970. They had two children. Their son Gary died in 2004. We are pleased that his daughter Adonna has traveled from Washington state to be with us today.

The record of service to his faith and the Norwegian-American community during Bendik Bondahl's short life can only leave us wondering what he might have accomplished had he been given more

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time on this earth. Both Telelaget and Concordia were enriched by his presence and blessed to be part of his legacy. It seems only fitting that we join together to remember and honor him today.



Concordia Magnets and Notecards

Concordia refrigerator magnets are available for \$4.00 and a pack of 5 notecards can be purchased for \$6.00.

Pick them up at church or add them to your book order! When ordered with books, no additional postage required.



Bits and Pieces

Concordia Congregation and the Buffalo River Settlement



Concordia Congregation and the Buffalo River Settlement includes

Levi Thortvedt's story of the early years in our community and the 75th anniversary history of Concordia. Cost of the 68-page book is \$12.00. A spiral bound large print version of the book is also available. Books can now be purchased at the church. For an additional \$4, books will be mailed to you.

Mail in your order using the form on the next page.

Books and other Concordia logo items can also be purchased on-line with a credit card:

<http://www.cafepress.com/concordialutheran>

Concordia receives a small commission on each item ordered. Profits to Concordia's general fund.

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Mail to: "Concordia History Book" c/o Sylvia Teigen

915 4th Avenue South

Moorhead MN 56560

DATES TO REMEMBER

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 AM

Worship: 10 AM

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

WELCA

August 9th, 1:30 PM

Birthdays

August 3 Eileen Johnson

August 4 Pearl Grover

August 7 DeeAnn Skolness

August 10 Virgil Jegtvig

August 17 Carolyn Edwards, Tara Amundson

August 23 Margret Kragnes

August 27 Don Johnson

Anniversaries

August 5 Don & Phylis Nelson

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To submit an item for the newsletter:

E-mail: news@concordianews.org

Write: Karolynn Teigen-Decker
915 4th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560

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Concordia Newsletter Staff

Editors: Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen

Treasurer/Distribution: Valdemar Hagene

Web Edition: Alene Sladky

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Pastor:

Bruce Krogstad

Office: 218-233-0459

Cell: 218-329-2245