

# Concordia News – Large Print

## September 2011

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

Volume 6

Number 9



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## **From Pastor Bruce**

*Grace to you in the name of Christ our Lord. In reflecting on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 I was looking around the internet for Lutheran pastors' reflections on this event. Given that I have deployed several times in support of our country's response to this event, I believe it would be best for me to defer to a colleague to address this anniversary. Of all that I encountered I would like to share with you a portion of the following reflection from a Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor:*

Rev. Paul J Cain, Jr.

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Green River, Wyoming

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For Christians, no matter what befalls us as citizens, be it Pearl Harbor or September 11th, no matter what we endure as individuals, personal or family tragedy, persecution, hardship, or just a bad hair day, nothing can overshadow Good Friday or Easter Sunday. The centrality of Christ's

death and Resurrection overcomes all the shadows of this world. Look at our calendar. B.C. and A.D. or even the secular B.C.E. and C.E. still center our history on Jesus story.

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments center upon Christ and Him crucified, offering comfort and hope to hurting and anxious people today. That Gospel, Good News, should be the common thread running through any pastors sermon, whenever he takes the pulpit. Sometimes, other concerns seem to overshadow the Gospel message we have been given to proclaim.

Much has been said about patriotism. Also, much has been shown. Flag burners have become flag wavers. For all of its diversity, America stands united against terrorism. For all of its power, patriotism cannot save. Even the most patriotic American in the Twin Towers, aboard Flight 93, or working in the wrong part of Ring E of the Pentagon was not spared in the terrorist attacks. There are times, like then and now, when patriotism is not enough. Eternal security and citizenship are real needs.

Surely, the Scriptures commend good Christian citizenship as an extension of the Fourth Commandments teaching to

honor father and mother. But there is more. Citizen and government each have responsibility to one another.

Sometimes, patriotism is not enough. Patriotism has its purposes. We can show solidarity against a moral evil. We can show support for our President and the armed forces. We can show a united front against terror and for truth, justice, and political freedom. But patriotism has its limitations. It cannot forgive sin. Patriotism cannot guarantee homeland security. It cannot guarantee eternal security. Sometimes patriotism is not enough.

A Canadian-born pastor writes: In the process of becoming an American citizen I learned that, since the mid-1970s, Canada has recognized the citizenship of a Canadian who has taken out citizenship in another country. I am technically the citizen of two countries the United States and Canada. It is called dual citizenship.

Jesus described His followers as being part of two kingdoms or two worlds [in] (John 17). Physically, they were a part of this present world and therefore under the rule of human kingdoms. Spiritually, they were also part of a heavenly kingdom, representing a greater allegiance. By virtue of natural birth, I am a Canadian citizen, he continued.

To become a citizen of the United States I needed to be naturalized.

Christians have been naturalized into citizenship in the kingdom of heaven by the Holy Spirit. Holy Baptism is a washing of rebirth, regeneration, and forgiveness where disciples are made, in conjunction with instruction in all that Jesus has given us. The Holy Spirit uses that Word of God in and with the water of Baptism to bring an unbeliever to faith, and gives the gifts of new life, forgiveness, and the promise of resurrection and eternal citizenship in heaven.

This is taught Biblically in Philippians 3:17-21: "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Our eternal Christian citizenship is in heaven!

There has been, I believe, a good deal of emotionally charged "hype" as we have drawn closer to this day. Our emphasis here and now is as it has been, "Is not even this in God's hands? Remember your Baptism! You are a child of the heavenly Father! Our Lord will neither leave nor forsake you!" It has been interesting to see what has gone on today and leading up to this first anniversary. Not everything promoted in the public square has been helpful. Much has been opportunistic.

Our Lord, however, is not such a Lord. He is an ever-present help in trouble and prosperity. For all the overuse and corniness of the poem Footprints in the Sand, it those outside of Christ will face judgment according to their own deeds. Those in Christ have as Judge their own defense attorney. Christians are judged according to Christ's work. In an age of terrorism, patriotism is not enough. We need something more than a secure homeland for this life. We need an eternal home, for a Christian's eternal citizenship is in heaven. The Lord is the only true security anyone can have.

I would like to share with you this evening a few paragraphs that look at the "big picture" in which we live today, in an age of terrorism, and all the issues that have

arisen in light of the 9/11 attacks. This is a thoughtful reflection from a gifted writer. I highly recommend the entire work from which these thoughts are culled.

I am struck by how appropriate and wonderfully clear this statement is a statement that captures the essential realities of the times in which we live. It is precisely this clarity of confession and this genuine witness to the Gospel that the world needs to hear. Nothing can be more loving than to speak this very truth, in love, in gentleness and with respect for all. This is from the new Concordia Publishing House book: Christianity In An Age of Terrorism. I commend it and these thoughts to you.

The United States, its citizens targeted in an unprovoked attack, is waging a war of necessity, indeed, a just war. And yet, we have much to repent for. Every kind of catastrophe, every horrible accident and crime, reminds us of the fragility of our lives, taking away our security by which we deny the certain prospect of death. Facing death and the ever present possibility of death speaks to us of Law, the inescapable reality of sin, and the wages of sin.

The uneasy climate of the age of terrorism, the realization that an attack or a bombing or a biological weapon could be

imminent at any time, makes it less easy to enjoy complacency, that great obstacle to the faith. Living in the knowledge of death and the knowledge of sin in the world, including our own, can drive people to the grace of God in Christ.

Christianity has to do with the Gospel, and Christians must beware of lurching from complacent immorality to the other extreme of a new self-righteous legalism. We are not saved by our good works, and those who think they are--such is the power of sin--tend to actually perform bad works. Thus, the terrorists claim allegiance to the most moralistic of religions, which they use as a pretext to commit the most brutal atrocities. Christians must not play that game.

Some think today that all religions of the world are the same; that is to say, equally good. Others agree that they are the same, but conclude that they are equally bad. Perhaps Christians, who believe in the Gospel, should agree with the secularists [on this one point]: The world's religions are all wrong, insofar as they result in self-righteousness, self-divinization, and a seared conscience that justifies wickedness in the name of its false gods.



The Gospel, in contrast, puts its trust in God's action, not our own, trading sin for forgiveness, hate for love, and glory for the cross. In an age of terrorism, Jesus Christ is the only security anyone can have.

Amen.

*Pastor Bruce*

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## **Two Thousand One, Nine Eleven**

*Written by: Paul Spreadbury, York Beach, ME*

Two thousand one, nine eleven

Five thousand plus arrive in heaven

As they pass through the gate,

Thousands more appear in wait.

A tall bearded man,

wearing a stovepipe hat

steps forward and greets them,

Then says, "Lets chat."

They settle down in seats of clouds

A man named Martin shouts out proud

"I have a dream!" and once he did  
The Newcomer says, "Your dream still lives."  
Groups of soldiers in blue and gray  
Others in khaki, and green then say  
"We're from Bull Run, Yorktown, the Maine"  
The Newcomer says, "You died not in vain."  
From a man on sticks one could hear  
"The only thing we have to fear.  
The Newcomer says, "We know the rest,  
trust us sir, we've passed that test."  
A man with a twang from New England shores  
Then proclaimed in a voice they had all heard before  
"Courage like yours does not hide in caves  
You can't bury freedom, in a grave,"  
A silence fell within the mist  
Somehow the Newcomer knew that this  
Meant time had come for her to say  
What was in the hearts of the five thousand plus that day:  
"In the land of the living, we wrote reports,  
Watched our children play in sports,

Worked our gardens, sang our songs,  
Went to church and clipped coupons.

We smiled, we laughed,  
we cried, we fought  
Unlike you, great we're not."

The tall man in the stovepipe hat  
Stood and said, "Don't talk like that!  
Look at your country, look and see  
You died for freedom, just like me."

Then, before them all appeared a scene  
Of ruined streets and twisted beams  
Death, destruction, rubble and dust  
And people working just 'cause they must.

Hauling ash,  
lifting stones,  
Knee deep in hell  
But not alone.

"Look! Blackman, whiteman, brownman, and yellow  
Side by side helping their fellow!"

So said Martin, as he watched the scene

"Even from nightmares, can be born a dream."

Down below three firemen raised

The colors high into ashen haze.

The soldiers above had seen it before

On Iwo Jima back in '44.

The man on sticks studied everything closely

Then shared his perceptions on what he saw mostly

"I see pain, I see tears,

I see sorrow - but I don't see fear."

"You left behind husbands and wives

Daughters and sons and so many lives

are suffering now because of this wrong

But look very closely. You're not really gone.

All of those people, even those you've never met

All of their lives, they'll never forget

Don't you see what has happened?

Don't you see what you've done?

You've brought them together, together as one.

The man named Abe stood and said

"Welcome my friends," and from there he led,

five thousand Newcomers, all heroes to heaven

On this day of our Lord, two thousand one nine eleven.

*Announcements and Assignments*



**Date:** September 13  
**Time:** 1:30  
**Lunch:** Doris Kassenborg

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## Cookie Servers

Sept. 4	Doris Kassenborg	Oct. 2	Osie Juve
Sept. 11	Becky Jegtvig	Oct. 9	Regina Hanson
Sept. 18	Orpha Hoelstad	Oct. 16	Linda Koester
Sept. 25	Germaine Gress	Oct. 23	Carolyn Edwards
		Oct. 30	Irene Olson

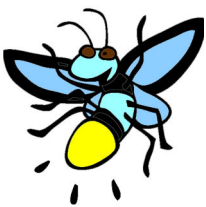
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If you know of someone who is in the hospital or would like a home visit please let me know. I can be reached at 218-329-2245.

Thank you! *Pastor Bruce*

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A grandfather brought his grandson to his vacation cabin. They kept the lights off until they were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed them in. The grandson whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."



## **Concordianews.org**

“The Fourth Commandment” is the subject for Kids Corner in September. During this school year, we’ll look at a different commandment each month. Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

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# **National Grandparents Day**

**September 11, 2001**

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A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods. "The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!



*Obituary*

**Esther Kassenborg**

**1909-2011**

Esther Kassenborg was buried at Concordia on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 after a funeral at Eventide Lutheran Home in Moorhead. She died on August 3.



Esther was born November 4, 1909, to John and Lettie (Syntegaard) Grinde. She grew up and attended school near the family farm in rural Kragnes, MN. Esther married Gilbert Kassenborg in December, 1935. Together they made their home and farmed in rural Glyndon, MN, until moving to Moorhead in 1962. Esther worked for a time at Agassiz Nursery and later at Concordia College. Gilbert died in 1979. In 1996, Esther moved into Eventide's Linden Tree and into Eventide Lutheran Home in 2006, where she had most recently lived.

Esther was a life-long member of Concordia Lutheran Church in rural Glyndon. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting and

## *Obituary*

embroidery. She also enjoyed fishing, traveling and even playing piano in her earlier years. She will be dearly missed.

Esther is survived by her son, Gordon (Susan) Kassenborg of Glyndon, MN; grandchildren, Aron (Laura VonBank) Kassenborg of Moorhead; Holly (Robert Lind) Kassenborg and great-granddaughter, Ayla, of Minnetonka, MN.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother and sisters.



### **Richard E. Erickson**

Dick Erickson, 74, was found dead at home in rural Felton on Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

He was the nephew of Esther Kragnes, and remained on the farm after her death in 2002.

Per his request, there was no funeral. Richard's cremains were scattered on his parents' graves in North Dakota.

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*With Our Thanks*

# **Donations**

## **Concordia News**

*In Memory of Esther Kassenborg*

Myron Hagene

*In Memory of Alys Oberg & Richard Erickson*

Regina Hanson

## **Concordia Cemetery Association**

*In Memory of Partyke Family*

Paul & Jenifer Partyke

*In Memory of Norma Jean Oberg*

Osie Juve      Ella Swanson

*In Memory Alys Oberg*

Lloyd Gunderson      Val & Delores Hagene

Harold & Sally Horpedahl

*In Memory of Dick Erickson*

Doris Kassenborg      Dick & Mavis Wang

*With Our Thanks*

*In Memory of Esther Kassenborg*

Val & Delores Hagene      Don Johnson  
Lloyd Gunderson              Elmer Oberg  
Lois Oberg                      Dick & Mavis Wang  
Helen Kassenborg              Cindy & Bryce Christopherson  
Nancy & Bruce Kusler        Heidi Kassenborg & Grant Gugisberg  
Jean Oberg                      Dalan & Diane Rasmussen  
Marlin & Jeanette Oberg      Harold & Sally Horpedahl;  
Wescott Somerdale & Marie Thomson  
Doris Kassenborg              Lois Jensen  
Duane & Joan Erickson       Marge Brantner  
Regina Hanson                Glenn Kuehl  
Dorothy Powers                Marietta Gunderson

*In Memory of Gilbert Kassenborg*

Gordon Kassenborg Family

*Donation*

Jane & Ted Bekkerus

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Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go.

*Mother Theresa*



**Thank you  
from the Spring Luncheon**

Thank you for inviting us to sing in your beautiful church. The audience was terrific and the meal was out of this world – great.

Again, thank you for the donation. It is very thoughtful of you folks to be so generous. God Bless!!!

The Rusty Chords Trio  
Marilyn Lee, Noah Chelliah, Cecil Malme



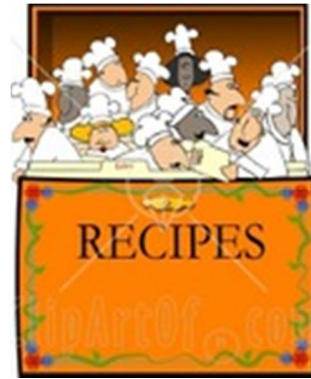
There are so many things we can be thankful for  
Just look around and see all the blessings of the  
Lord.

Everything we have in life is given from above  
To sustain us and to keep us and to share  
God's precious love.

Blessings come in different ways and sometimes can be missed  
So thank the Lord who gave them for all His seen and unseen gifts.

*M. S. Lowndes*

## **Recipe of the Month Pork 'n Bean Bread**



### **Ingredients:**

2 c. Sugar	1 c. vegetable oil
3 eggs	1 16 oz. can pork & beans, drained
2 cups flour	1 tsp cinammon
½ tsp baking powder	½ tsp baking soda
1 cup raisins	1 tsp vanilla

### **Directions:**

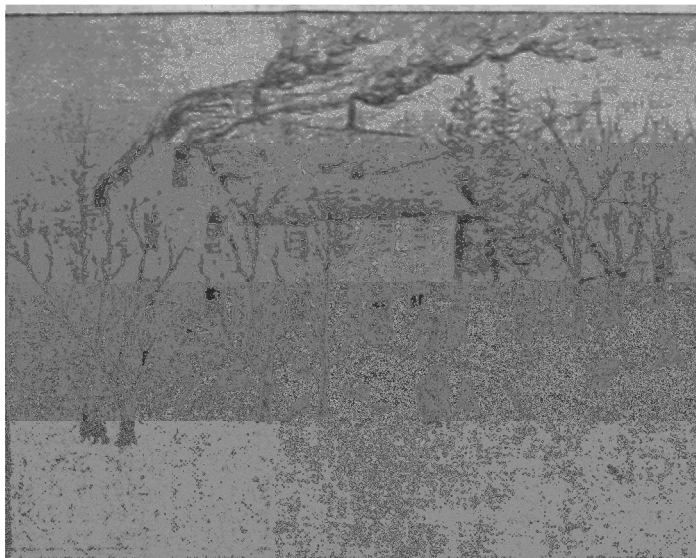
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees
- In a large bowl, mix sugar, oil eggs and beans and beat until smooth
- In another bowl, combine flour, cinnamon, baking powder and baking soda. Add to bean mixture, stirring just until combined.
- Stir in raisins and vanilla
- Pour into two loaf pans
- Bake for 50-55 minutes

## **On the Buffalo**

by Orabel Thortvedt

Excerpts from the serial published  
in the *Fargo Forum* in 1941

Sketch by Orabel Thortvedt



In 1874, Olav Thortvedt had found his small cabin inadequate and in that year built a new log house, large for those times. It was 26 by 23 feet, and 16 feet to the eaves. He felled the straightest and tallest trees. These he hewed, then engaged the four best timber-cutters in the settlement: Gunnar Svenkeson, Lars Svenkeson, Johan Danielson, and Olaus Kristoferson. They each had a corner of the house to build and there was keen competition.

From the then booming town of Moorhead, Olav bought the rest of the materials, such as 26 windows with 12 panes each, six-inch floor boards, bricks, tin stove pipes, square-headed nails, etc. Olav made one mistake. Instead of having the brick pipe reach from top to bottom, he had it extend only to the floor of the attic. From there on and down, tin pipes were installed.

On the evening of December 16, 1899, Olav Thorvedt brought in some wood. It was used for fuel the morning of the 17th, and

## *Bits and Pieces*

Ingebor Midgarden, who had become the wife of Leif Levi Thortvedt, had no difficulty in frying the pancakes to a delicious brown. The children caught the odor of the "*pannekaker*" and came downstairs. Alpha and Dora had pushed their bed and straw-filled mattress against the tin stove pipe, and blithely left it. The mattress caught fire.

Goodwin, a lad in his teens, started up with a pail of water. Little Ole ran to the stable, bridled a bay morgan mare, *Gamle* Steady, and galloped to the Gundersons and Skreis for help. Neighbors came running on foot, by sleigh and on horseback. A brisk south wind sprang up and soon the house was an inferno. Burning shingles blew a mile across the fields to the Nikalsen homestead. Only a few heirlooms were saved.

*Next: A wedding to remember*



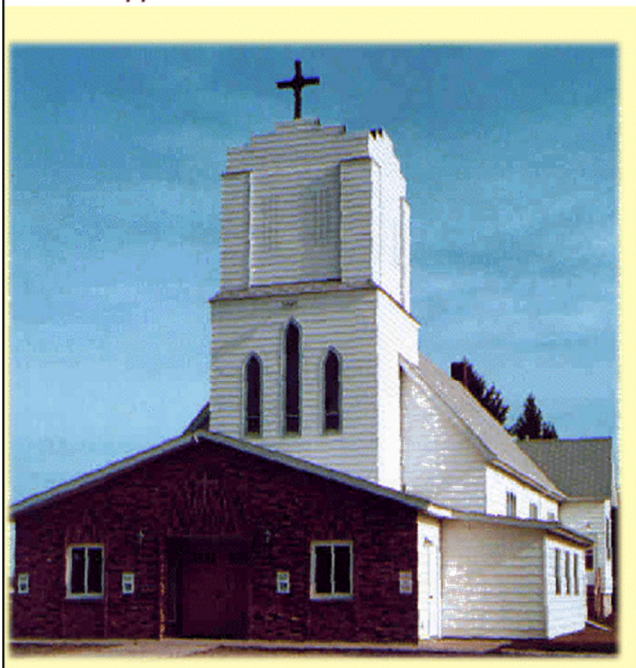
### **Concordia Magnets and Notecards**

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.

*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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Moorhead MN 56560



# DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Coffee Hour: 9 AM

Worship: 10 AM

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

## ***WELCA***

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 PM

## ***Birthdays***

September 9      Doris Kassenborg

September 13     Sylvia Teigen

September 23     Curt Lynde

September 28     Ray Amundson

## ***Anniversaries***

September 9      Neil & Polly Hanson

September 12     Ray & Tara Amundson

September 21     Dick & Mavis Wang

# September 2011

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*To submit an item for the newsletter:*

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Moorhead MN 56560

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