

# Concordia News – Large Print

## December 2011

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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

We find ourselves in the darkest month of the year. What is interesting is that one prone to dark moods, namely Martin Luther, would become upbeat even bouyant during Advent. I believe this was due to his faith and imagination. The seasons of the church year were not some abstract human creations but living reenactments of the original events for Luther. No wonder Luther's mood lifted this time of year. He was celebrating again the incarnation, Immanuel, God with us. We are no longer bumping along in darkness alone and without hope. God has intervened in subtle yet powerful ways through His Son Jesus Christ born as a baby for you and for me, in the most humble of circumstances. I commend to you this following excerpt provided by Gordon Conwell Seminary. I hope it is as edifying to you as it has been

to me and that this Advent and Christmas would be a blessing to you and yours:

In the theological tumult that was Martin Luther's life, the great reformer seemed to be heartened each year by the great festivals of the church, particularly Advent and Christmas. The man who "invented" the Protestant parsonage was also sustained by a blazing sense of humor and a happy home life. It was open house all year in the large converted monastery at the east end of Wittenberg where Luther, his wife Katie, and their six children lived, along with numerous students who stayed there as well. One of them wrote that as Christmas approached, Luther grew increasingly cheerful: "All his words and songs and thoughts concerned the incarnation of our Lord. Then he sighed and said, 'Oh, we poor people that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy that has been given us. For this is indeed the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. Yet we believe so sluggishly, even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing, and their lovely song sums up the whole Christian faith,

for 'Glory to God in the highest' is the very heart of worship."

Luther's writings contain a multitude of references to Advent and Christmas. The following excerpt comes from a sermon on the Nativity that he preached in 1530:

If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now.

May God continue to Bless you all.

*Pastor Bruce*

*Announcements and Assignments*



**Date:** December 13

**Time:** Noon

**Lunch:** Potluck



## Cookie Servers

Dec. 4 Delores Hagene

Dec. 11 Mavis Wang

Dec. 18 Polly Hanson

Dec. 25 Doris Kassenborg

January 1

January 8

January 15

January 22

January 29

Becky Jegtvig

Orpha Hoelstad

Germaine Gress

Osie Juve

Regina Hanson



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*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to man the earth.





## **Concordianews.org**

“The First Commandment” is the subject for Kids Corner in December. Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

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### **Sunday December 11 following services**

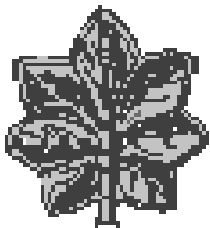
Proceeds will be used to finance the garbage dumpster.

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**Christmas  
Potluck**



### **Congratulations, Pastor Bruce!**



As most of you know, Pastor Bruce’s “full time job” is as an Air Force chaplain. Last month he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

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Christmas is love in action. Every time we love,  
every time we give, its Christmas.





## **Your Donations**

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

*With Our Thanks*  
**Donations**

**Concordia Cemetery Association**

*In memory of the Partyke Family*

Paul & Jennifer Partyke

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**THANK YOU** Andy Ulven (grandson of Doris Kassenborg) and his parents Kim and Rich for mowing and trimming the cemetery this summer.

**THANK YOU** Val Hagene for mowing and taking care of the Leif Erickson cemetery.

The cemeteries look great!

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**Thank you** to everyone who helped decorate the church on Saturday, November 26. Thank you to Kathy and Orpha for the Christmas program and

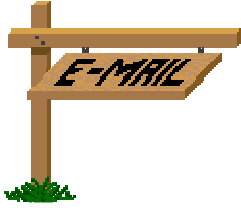




*With Our Thanks*

music with the lunch and fellowship that followed. A special start to the Advent season.

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## **A Thank You from Far Away ....**

*Pastor Bruce received this email from a home-schooling mom in the state of Virginia:*

I would like to thank you for your monthly children's page. I have been using it for a couple of years now as a homeschooler who is not an evangelical Christian, I really appreciate the way the faith is put out there and the music and other activities that are tied into your program...It is our Friday afternoon activity each week and we just finished up with this months work today and my 10 year old was excited about what will be next month's subject and guesses what will be part of it...

I have meant to say thank you to you and your staff for a long time now...It is really appreciated.

Karen Montgomery-Eliot, Alyssa, Molly and Eric

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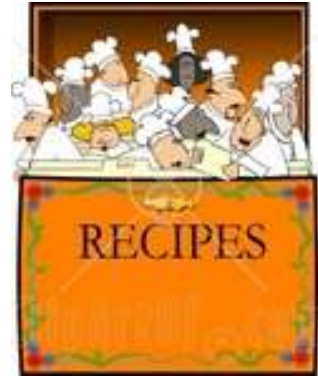
*Now and then we receive emails of appreciation from around the world thanking us for 'Kids Corner.'*

*Recipe of the Month*

## **Recipe of the Month**

### **Rullepølse**

*from the Norwegian-American Weekly*



### **Ingredients**

2 ½ lbs beef flank steak, butterflied (ask the butcher)

2 half-inch thick pork steaks

1 tbsp salt

1 tsp pepper

1 tsp ground ginger

½ tsp ground cloves

½ tsp sugar

1 medium onion, minced

Beef bouillon

### **Directions**

- Open flank steak to form rectangle, shiny side down. Pound to even thickness.
- Remove bones & gristle from pork, pound to even thickness.
- Mince onion, set aside

### *Recipe of the Month*

- Mix dry seasonings, except bouillion
- Sprinkle 1/3 seasonings onto steak and rub into the meat
- Sprinkle 1/3 onions onto seasoned surface of steak
- Place pork steaks over onions
- Sprinkle remaining seasonings & onions onto pork steak
- With the grain of the meat lengthwise, firmly roll the meat away from you. Tuck in stray ends.
- To close, sew the final flap of meat to the roll. Tie a string around the meat lengthwise. Place the meat in a clean nylon knee-high and tie a knot in the end.
- Pierce the meat roll with a fork to prevent bursting.
- Place in pan, cover with water and add bouillion based on number of cups of water in pan
- Bring to a boil and then simmer slowly for 2 ½ to 3 hours (do NOT boil constantly)
- Place meat in flat pan and place a cutting board over the top, weighed down (e.g., with soup cans) to press out excess moisture and shape the meat into an oval.
- Press in refrigerator for 12 hours.
- Remove nylon, string, and all stitches
- Slice meat into thin slices



## **Three Services on Christmas?**

In the earliest Christian

days in Norway, people attended church three times at Christmas! The first service was a vigil that ended at midnight, which was believed to be the hour of Jesus' birth. This first service was also believed to represent the era before Christ's grace was known, so it was performed in darkness.

The second service was held at dawn, and represented the time when, although Christ was not yet among men, the prophets had foretold his coming and believers anxiously awaited his arrival (the coming of the light).

The daytime service, held at midday, celebrated the grace brought by Jesus' birth – destroying the darkness and bringing eternal light and life.

## *Bits and Pieces*

After the Reformation, the midnight service was abolished. A shortage of ministers meant that only one service could be held in most churches on Christmas. In some places the pastor had to cover so many miles to reach the churches in his parish that even one service in each congregation on Christmas Day was impossible. Christmas was officially extended to include December 26<sup>th</sup> and many communities held their Christmas services on that day.

December 26 is still an official holiday in Norway, and in America many Norwegian congregations (including Concordia) recognized this “Old Country” tradition by holding their community celebrations and children’s programs the day after Christmas.

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Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true!



*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

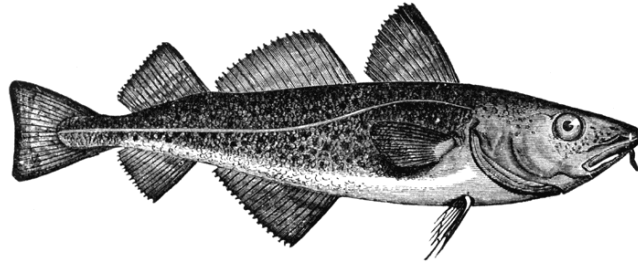


## **Why not *Kristmesse* in Norway?**

In Viking days, the winter solstice celebration was called *Jøl*. When Haakon the Good (920-960) introduced Christianity, he decided to combine the Old Norse celebration of *Jøl* with the Christian observance of *Kristmesse*. Haakon outlawed animal sacrifice and other “heathen” practices associated with the ancient celebration, and traditional toasts to the Viking gods were replaced with toasts to Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

Haakon renounced Christianity on his deathbed, and it would be decades before it gained a real foothold in Norway. The name *Kristmesse* never caught on, and the Old Norse name for the winter solstice celebration (which was also celebrated in Great Britain as yule) has become synonymous with the celebration of Jesus’ birth in Scandinavia.

## Where did lutefisk come from?



Legend has it that the Vikings attacked a village and burned down the wooden stacks where the residents were drying cod. Water was poured on the fire to douse the flames. A few days later, as people were rummaging through the rubble, they found the cod had softened amidst the ash and water (i.e., lye). They boiled it and found it not only edible but quite tasty. And thus was lutefisk born!

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Gunnar and Sven had trudged through the snow in the spruce forest all day long looking for a real Christmas tree. With no luck. by five o'clock the exhausted Gunnar finally announced: 'We're gonna take the next tree whether it got lights on it or not.'

# ***Dates to Remember***

**Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25**

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

Coffee Hour: 9 AM

Worship: 10 AM

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

## ***WELCA***

December 13<sup>th</sup>, Noon - Potluck

## ***Christmas Potluck***

December 10<sup>th</sup> following worship

## ***Birthdays***

December 1	Valdemar Hagene
December 2	Clinton Babolian Gordon Kassenborg
December 16	Paul Decker
December 17	Delores Hagene
December 29	Kristine Lynde



**December 2011**

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The large print edition of Concordia News is only available on-line.

*To submit an item for the newsletter:*

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

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

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## Christmas Ideas

The Christmas shopping season is just around the corner. Are you looking for a unique gift for someone special at Christmas? Think about a "Concordia" gift!

- *Concordia Congregation and the Buffalo River Settlement* - copies of the book, magnets, and notecards are still available
- T-shirts, caps, bags, mousepads and more are available with your credit card in Concordia's on-line store
- The 2010 Memorial Day slideshow of all of Concordia's veterans on DVD




Memorial Day DVDs benefit the Concordia Cemetery Fund. Books and other Concordia Gear benefit Concordia's General Fund.



## Book Order Form

*Concordia Congregation  
and the  
Buffalo River Settlement*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Books**

# of Copies \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Large Print \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Notecards**

Individual cards \_\_\_\_\_ X \$1.50= \_\_\_\_\_

Package of 5 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$6.00= \_\_\_\_\_

**Magnets**

"Old Concordia" \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Concordia Today \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.00= \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping:**

# of Books \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.00= \_\_\_\_\_

*No extra charge for Magnets & Notecards when purchased with a book*

Magnet/Notecard order \$2.00= \_\_\_\_\_

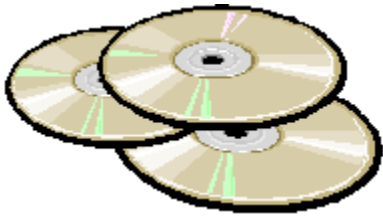


**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Sylvia Teigen  
915 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Make checks payable to "Concordia General Fund"

Moorhead MN 56560



# Memorial Day DVD Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**# of DVDs** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$10.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check, made out to the Cemetery Association, to:

Ray Johnson  
7333 70<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Glyndon MN 56547



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[www.cafepress.com/concordialutheran](http://www.cafepress.com/concordialutheran)



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