

Concordia News – Large Print

January 2012

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

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From Pastor Bruce

While the season of Christmas extends into the first week of January, we are on the cusp of a far more bashful season, an often overlooked season of Epiphany. Epiphany is literally God's revealing himself to humanity. The first Sunday of Epiphany is marked by the story of the Magi visiting Jesus. Here are what some authors say about this occasion:

Pastor Paul Martin writes the following about the Three Wise Men (the Magi): *Just 6 days ago, our thoughts were on Jesus in the manger. Then we found him visited by shepherds, men of little status whose working lives were such that they lacked the ritual cleanliness to be fully participating members of Israel's religious life which meant in effect being outsiders. Now we meet another group of outsiders, the mysterious Magi. We do not know when Matthew sees them as coming to visit Jesus. Often it is noted that they visit Jesus in a house as though this puts a considerable difference between the time of their visit and the earlier visit of the*

shepherds. However, this is not necessarily so. The Greek word that is often translated as “inn” in terms of no room at the inn, is “kataluma” which is only used elsewhere by Luke to refer to the arrangements for the upper room whilst in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke uses a different word for a commercial inn. Given that most basic homes were one room homes with a lower level for animals who could reach up to a manger at the family living level, there is good reason to believe that Jesus was born in the main section of a home of relatives whilst the kataluma or spare room was already occupied. If so, the two visitations need not be far apart.

But what of these Magi? Their visit fits an Eastern pattern of great births being accompanied by momentous events in the sky. Certainly we know of a comet in 11 BCE in Gemini with its head towards Leo, seen by many as a symbol of Judah, which may have heightened messianic expectations. We also know of planetary conjunctions in both 7 BCE and 6 BCE which would have added to a sense that momentous happenings were on the way. Magi from present day Iran or Iraq would have noticed these things and taken them seriously. But who were they?

One commentator, Brian Stoffregen puts it like this; *“Originally in Persia, Magi were dream- interpretaters. By Jesus’ time, the term referred to astronomers, fortune-tellers, or star-gazers. In fact our word “magic” or “magician” comes from the word Magi. They were horospope fanatics - a practice condemned by Jewish standards. We might compare the to people in fortune - teller booths, or people on the “psychic hotline” or other “occupations” that fore-tell the future by stars, tea leaves, Tarot cards etc. They were magicians, astronomers, star-gazers, pseudo-scientists, fortune tellers..”*

Another writer, Nathan Nettleton, puts it like this; *“They were the speakers of the sacred words at the pagan sacrifices. At worst, the term referred to a magician or sorcerer, or even a deceiver. Magi were people whose activities were repeatedly condemned and prohibited throughout the scriptures and were completely anathema to the people of Israel.”*

What are the implications of Epiphany for us at Concordia? Perhaps it is that the presence of God is extended to those who are very different from ourselves and perhaps through these people we can be blessed. We may not agree with their beliefs or life styles but God may use

these people as a blessing to us and to the world in ways that make us uncomfortable. Do we change our core beliefs because of this, of course not, but this is not to discount God's ability to work good through those that are outside of the Christian faith.

May you experience a measure of God's revelation of Himself through his Son Jesus Christ and through that experience receive the blessing of new life.

God Bless,
Pastor Bruce



Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 16

Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Announcements and Assignments



No Meeting in January



Cookie Servers

January 1	Becky Jegtvig	February 5	Polly Hanson
January 8	Orpha Hoelstad	February 12	Sylvia Teigen
January 15	Delores Hagene	February 19	Doris
January 22	WELCA		Kassenborg
January 29	WELCA	February 26	Linda Koester

The server rotation was changed but we did not have the list at the time of December's newsletter publication. As a result, the list for January was not correct as printed last month. This is the correct list of assignments.



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.

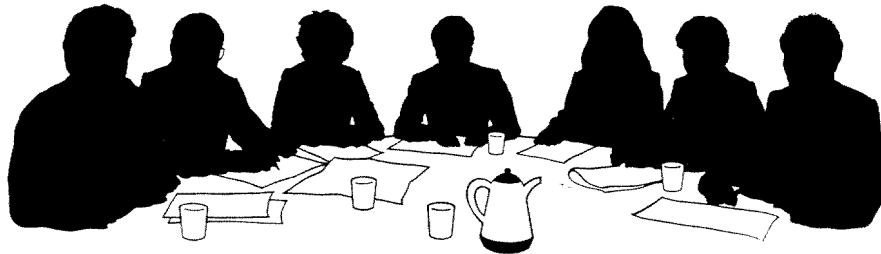
Thank you! *Pastor Bruce*



Concordianews.org

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

Join the Cemetery Committee!



Two Cemetery Committee Member positions are expiring this year and if you or anyone you know is interested in serving on the Cemetery Committee, contact one of the following members for any questions or nominations:

Aron Kassenborg 701-238-1950

Gerald Hagene 701-261-4234

Ray Johnson 701-238-4218

On New Year's Eve ... an optimist stays up to see the New Year in while a pessimist stays up to see the old year gone ...

Christmas “Un-Trimming”



We will meet to take down the Christmas decorations on **Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am** and have coffee and cookies.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Congregation and Cemetery Association

Sunday, February 5, 2012



A potluck dinner follows worship and precedes the congregation’s annual meeting,

The cemetery association meeting will follow the congregation’s annual meeting.

From the Ole & Lena files



Ripped frum da Headlines

Before construction of a new skyscraper could begin in New York City, archeologists were called in to examine the ground to a depth of

Announcements and Assignments

150 feet. They were surprised when at 25 feet they found copper wire. The *New York Times* reported that the copper dated to the late 1800's and proved that the city had an extensive telephone network earlier than had previously been suspected.

The *Los Angeles Times* then reported that an archeological dig in the oldest sections of Los Angeles found copper wire dating to the mid-1800's and concluded that the early Spanish settlers had a sophisticated communications system in place decades before New York.

Ole heard these reports on the news in Frostbite Falls. He and Sven decided to see what they could find. The *Frostbite Herald* reported that the duo figured they'd dug down about 300 years worth and found absolutely nothing. The paper boasted that these local 'archeologists' had confirmed that Minnesota had already gone wireless by the end of the 1700's.

The Epiphany, or "Twelfth Night" marks the end of the Christmas season. On this date, we celebrate the visit of the Magi, and also Jesus' baptism.



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 Robert Burke

Mike & Donna Burke

Matthew Burke Family

Kara Orsini

In memory of Harold Anderson

Harold Anderson Family

In memory of Lucilla Anderson

Harold Anderson Family

Concordia Newsletter

In Memory of Walter Engesetter

Lois Jensen

Concordia Lutheran Church

In Memory of Harold and Lucilla Anderson

Harold Anderson Family

With Our Thanks



Thank you to the following people who purchased poinsettias for the church during this Christmas season.

In Memory of Orabel, Eva, and Stella

Chuck and Holly Hedstrom

In Memory of Loved Ones

Doris Kassenborg

Mavis Wang

Ella Swanson

Delores Hagene

Regina Hanson

Lloyd Gunderson

Sylvia Teigen

Orpha Hoelstad

Harold Horpedahl

Kathy Krogstad

Kirby and Candy Kassenborg



Thank you to all for supporting the cemetery with your thoughts and prayers, memorials, and donated time throughout the year. Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!

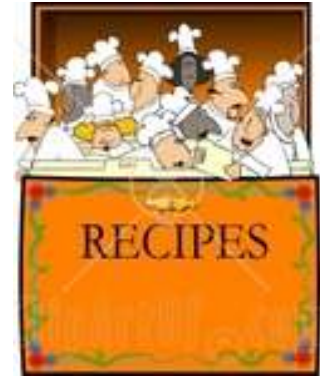
Concordia Cemetery Committee

A New Year's resolution goes in one year and out the other.

Unknown

Recipe of the Month

Superbowl Cheesecake Spread



Ingredients

- 2 8-oz pkgs of cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 medium green pepper, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 3 hard boiled eggs, chopped
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp paprika
- ¼ tsp hot pepper sauce
- 1 ½ cups crushed cheese crackers
- 1 ¼ cups thick & chunky picante sauce

Directions

- In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except crackers and picante sauce
- Spread mixture evenly into lightly greased 9-inch springform pan

Recipe of the Month

- Cover and chill 24 hrs to allow flavors to blend
 - When ready to serve, remove sides of pan
 - Sprinkle top with crushed crackers
 - Spoon picante sauce into center of cheesecake
 - Serve with crackers
-

Recipe for a New Year



Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so

Recipe of the Month

many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

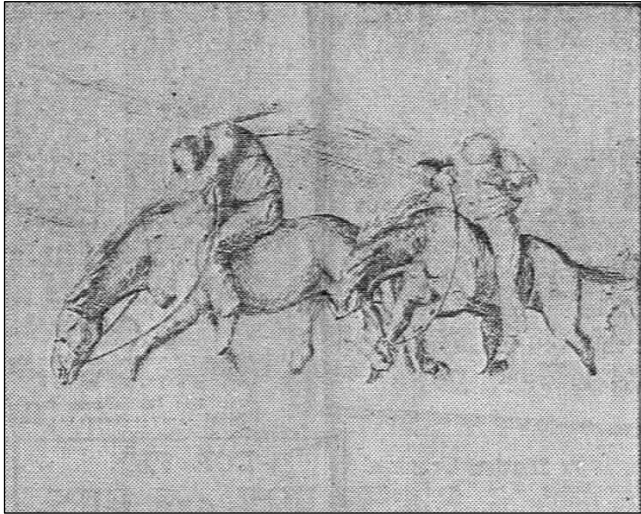
Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.



Christmas at Concordia 2011

Along the Buffalo



Story and Sketch by Orabel Thortvedt

As published in the *Fargo Forum*, 1941

Few of the Buffalo River folk experienced a worse winter storm than that of 1873. It came in the early part of January. The day dawned beautifully and Gunder Lee and Ola Midgarden took the Olav Thortvedt horses, Jim and Roudy, and drove to the J. P. Farmer homestead to help thresh grain with the flail method. Tarjei Skrei also was in the party.

In the afternoon the sky became leaden. Soon heavy snowflakes began to fall. The three men laid aside their flails and set off for home. It was none too soon. The temperature dropped fast and the wind came in from the north with biting ferocity, the icy blast all but taking the breath of the men. Their eyebrows, eyelashes, and beards became stiff with icicles. They could not ride fast (see sketch) for Tarjei Skrei was on foot and they were afraid of losing him. It was not long before they lost the trail, but

they kept on doggedly and finally recognized a familiar landmark, the Skrei *slua* or slough. They followed the timber and were home, a thankful group of men.

Despite the ferocity of winter storms, there is no record of any Buffalo River folk losing their lives. They were alert to changes in the weather and frequently glanced skyward as they went about their tasks. Their warm homespuns kept them comfortable and they struggled on.

More about the Blizzard of 1873

The worst blizzard Minnesota ever experienced occurred January 7, 8, & 9 1873. It began as a mild day, with people enjoying the remarkably sunny warmth outside in their shirtsleeves. Dark clouds appeared in the west, and when the blizzard struck, the temperature dropped over 50 degrees. Many were stranded in their buggies or on horseback as the wind whipped into a frenzy that made it “impossible to see the horsewhip in your hand.” Their plight was compounded because so many were not wearing their winter garb. 70 people froze to death; hundreds of cattle and other

livestock froze in their pastures. Thousands of dollars worth of property was destroyed.

As the storm raged on, many were forced outdoors to bring in firewood, only to find their woodpiles buried under a mountain of snow. There were reports of farmers getting lost between house and barn and freezing to death within feet of safety. Snowdrifts, some reported to be two stories tall, stranded trains on the railroad tracks for days.

The storm covered much of the Midwest, reaching from Kansas and Nebraska to the Canadian prairie provinces. It was covered in eastern papers and magazines. Minnesota's legislature appropriated \$5,000 (\$90,000 in today's dollars) to help the victims of the storm, but that sum didn't even cover the bills submitted by doctors who had cared for frostbite victims!



Sketch from Harper's Weekly - February 15, 1873

Dates to Remember

Happy New Year! January 1, 2012

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 AM

Worship: 10 AM

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

WELCA

No meeting in January

Christmas “Un-trimming”

Saturday, January 14th 10 AM

Birthdays

January 3	Sally Horpedahl
January 6	Germaine Gress
January 10	Eddie Edwards
January 11	Polly Hanson
January 18	Harriet Wangberg
January 22	Dalan Rasmussen
January 30	Irene Olson

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To submit an item for the newsletter:

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Moorhead MN 56560

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