

Concordia News – Large Print

February 2012

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

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Happy President's Day
Monday, February 20

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From Pastor Bruce

The following is taken from an article entitled: the History and Meaning of Ash Wednesday, by Dr. Richard Bucher.

"Ash Wednesday, originally called *dies cinerum* (day of ashes) is mentioned in the earliest copies of the Gregorian Sacramentary, and probably dates from at least the 8th Century. One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in the writings of the Anglo-Saxon abbot Aelfric (955-1020). In his Lives of the Saints, he writes, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast." Aelfric then proceeds to tell the tale of a man who refused to go to church for the ashes and was accidentally killed several days later in a boar hunt! This quotation confirms what we know from other sources, that throughout the Middle Ages ashes were sprinkled on the head, rather than anointed on the forehead as in our day.

As Aelfric suggests, the pouring of ashes on one's body (and dressing in sackcloth, a very rough material) as an outer manifestation of inner repentance or mourning is an ancient practice. It is mentioned several times in the Old Testament. What is probably the earliest occurrence is found at the very end of the book of Job. Job, having been rebuked by God, confesses, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). Other examples are found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1,3, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30, and Daniel 9:3. In the New Testament, Jesus alludes to the practice in Matthew 11:21: "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in Scripture and is not commanded by God. Christians are free to either observe or not observe it. It also should be obvious that the external practices, are meaningless, even hypocritical, unless there is a corresponding inner repentance and change of behavior. This is made clear in Isaiah 58:5-7 when God says,

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed

and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

Culturally, most Lutherans who live in our area have drunk deeply from the words of Jesus warning us not to be showy and boastful in our piety by praying on street corners making our personal piety a public spectacle (see Matthew 6:16-18). Consequently participating in the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is an uncomfortable experience for many. The main purpose of Ash Wednesday is not to focus on the outer symbol of repentance, ashes, but upon inner repentance. Join us Feb 22 as we put ourselves in the place God has promised to meet us.

God bless,

Pastor Bruce



Meeting: Tuesday, February 7 1:30

Lunch: Fryin' Pan



Cookie Servers

February 5 Polly Hanson

March 4 Osie Juve

February 12 Sylvia Teigen

March 11 Irene Olson

February 19 Doris Kassenborg

March 18 Carolyn Edwards

February 26 Linda Koester

March 25 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*



Concordianews.org

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



New Furnace

It was necessary to replace the old furnaces in the church. New ones were installed in January.

The purchases were made with money from the trust fund.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Potluck follows worship

then

Congregation's annual meeting

followed by

Cemetery Association annual meeting

Lent begins Wednesday,

February 22

Supper at 5 p.m.

Service at 6 p.m.



Join us for a lenten meal and services on

February 29 and each Wednesday in March, too!

Ash Wednesday

One of the earliest mentions of the use of ashes in religious ritual in the Bible can be found in Jeremiah 6:26: "O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in ashes." It isn't until about the 6th Century AD that there is mention of the use of ashes on the first Wednesday in Lent. In the 11th Century, Pope Urban II formalized the use of ashes on that day, and sometime later this first day of Lent became known as 'Ash Wednesday.' In the 12th century the practice of using the ashes from the burning the palm leaves used during the previous year's Palm Sunday services began. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin and our need to repent: "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life: "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Waldo Hatledal

Donald Johnson Lloyd Gunderson

Ethel Menholt Mark LaPash

Harold & Sally Horpedahl

Val & Delores Hagene

In Memory of Merle Meyer

Lloyd Gunderson Lee Eidem

Kari Brown

In Memory of Gilbert & Esther Kassenborg

Aron & Laura Kassenborg

In Memory of Walter Engesetter

Lois Jensen

Donation

Lowell & Barbara Johnson

Burton & Catherine Grover

A Little about Leap Year



A solar year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds long, so every 4 years we add an extra day to February to correct for the extra $\frac{1}{4}$ day. The Egyptians were the first to start adding an extra day every 4 years. Leap year was introduced into our calendar by Julius Caesar in 45 BC.

Every year in the U.S. about 187,000 babies are born on “Leap Day,” February 29. Dinah Shore and bandleader Jimmy Dorsey were both born on February 29.

In old England, since the leap year day existed to fix a problem in the calendar, people thought it could also be used to fix an old and unjust custom that only let men propose marriage. The first report of this practice dates back to 1288, when Scotland supposedly passed a law that allowed women to propose marriage to the man of their choice during leap year. Tradition records that any man who declined a proposal in a leap year had to pay a fine. The fine could range from a kiss to payment for a silk dress or a pair of fur gloves!

Recipe of the Month

Butternut Squash Soup



Ingredients

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
6 cups cubed & seeded squash
½ Granny Smith apple, diced
1 ½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

1 cup chopped onion
1 ¾ cups apple cider
3 cups chicken broth
½ teaspoon thyme

Directions

- Melt the butter in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Add the onions and sauté until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the squash and apple and sauté for 5 more minutes. Add the remaining ingredients and bring the mixture to a boil.
- Reduce heat, cover and simmer until squash is tender, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat.
- In small batches, run soup through a blender or food processor until smooth.
- Serve immediately or refrigerate up to 3 days.

Concordia Ladies' Aid

From the 1949 75th Anniversary Program



Ladies Aid c. 1924

In 1884 after the first church was built, an effort was made to organize a ladies' aid in Concordia Congregation. This organization was neither large nor active but it did succeed in raising ninety dollars as a first payment on church pews. Rev. J. O. Haugen was pastor and Mrs. Tosten Rice served as president.

The organization remained dormant until 1897 when it was reorganized by Mrs. Signe Svenkeson and Mrs. Tosten Rice. For two days these two ladies drove around to their neighbors, using a team of horses, to find out how many women were interested in the

reorganization of this aid. The general sentiment was against Ladies' Aids as these were often termed *sladder foreninger* (gossip associations). However a day was set at the home of Mrs. Svenekson to which many came.

The opening hymn sung at this first meeting was number one in the Norse hymnary, "In Jesus name must all our work be done." Mrs. Signe Svenkeson was chosen president; Mrs. Tosten Rice, vice president; and Mrs. Jorgen Jensen treasurer.

Meetings were held in the afternoon conducted in the Norse language. The last portion of each meeting was the serving of a sumptuous lunch.

Handwork kept the women busy. Various articles were made and sold at auctions held during the year. The first sale took place in Svenkeson's new barn which was decorated for this occasion. With returns from this sale, an organ for the church was purchased and installed.

Funds were raised by having picnics and socials; homemade ice cream and other confections, not to forget the lemonade and fish ponds, which were big attractions for the children.

The Ladies Aid divided into the North and South Side Ladies' Aids. Handwork at meetings was discontinued in favor of dues, except during World War I when the Aid was active in Red Cross work under the leadership of Mrs. A. T. Grover and Mrs. Jorgen

Jensen. In 1919 the new basement was furnished by the two Ladies' Aids at the cost of \$1187. This provided a central meeting place so the two Aids united in 1920. Mrs. B. J. Gunderson was elected first president after the union of the aids.

At a gathering in church honoring the older members, a fire broke out in the front of the church; however it was soon extinguished by chopping a hole in the floor and the use of a bucket brigade.

In the spring of 1924 the aid redecorated the parsonage in anticipation of receiving a new pastor, Rev. M. G. Hagen.

From 1931 to 1935 half of the aid income was given to the building fund for the erection of a new church, a sum amounting to \$1378. These were depression years and the Ladies' Aid under the leadership of Mrs. Gilbert Cosen and Mrs. B. J. Gunderson accomplished one of its greatest undertakings – in 1936-37 it raised \$1152 (about \$18,800 today).

An incident worth mentioning is the fact that Mrs. Signe Svenkeson, a charter member and organizer, died the evening before the church dedication, October 9, 1938.

A portion of the funds collected by the Ladies Aid were used to help complete the church basement in 1947.

Officers serving in 1949 were Mrs. B. J. Gunderson, president; Mrs. Lars Horpedahl, vice president; Mrs. Clarence Jones, secretary; and Mrs. B. Tommerdahl, treasurer.

These women, as well as all the rest who have served the Concordia Aid in some capacity or other would no doubt voice the same sentiment as that expressed to the aid in a talk by the first president, Mrs. Svenkeson, when she prayed that these words from the Bible might be applicable to the Concordia Aid members, "See how they love one another."

Happy Valentine's Day

Hundreds of years ago in England, many children dressed up as adults on Valentine's Day. They went singing from home to home.



In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would then wear their valentine's names on their sleeves for one week. That was the origin of the phrase, "to wear your heart on your sleeve."

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

Dates to Remember

POTLUCK and ANNUAL MEETINGS – SUNDAY, February 5

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 AM

Worship: 10 AM

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

LENTEN SERVICES – February 22 and 29

Supper: 5 PM

Service: 6 PM

WELCA

Tuesday, February 7th at the Fryin' Pan

Birthday

February 17 Becky Jegtvig

Anniversary

February 4 Trygve & DeeAnn Skolness

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