

Concordia News – Large Print

February 2013

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

Volume 8

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From Pastor Bruce



Dear Members and Friends of
Concordia Lutheran:

Feb. 13 is Ash Wednesday which
marks the beginning of Lent.

Concordia will recognize Lent again

this year by having a potluck at 5:00 followed by worship
which will start immediately after supper. This is a wonderful
way of celebrating and recognizing what Jesus Christ has
accomplished for us in the incarnation and his
suffering/death/resurrection. All are welcome!

Holy Communion brackets this season being served on
Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday (or for some other
churches, Maundy Thursday).

It is good to remember what is happening during this sacrament. The following is a well written summary of Luther's understanding of the real presence. It is taken from Wikipedia:

The sacramental union is distinguished from the other "unions" in theology like the "personal union" of the two natures in Jesus Christ, the "mystical union" of Christ and his Church, and the "natural union" in the human person of body and soul. It is seen as similar to the personal union in the analogue of the uniting of the two perfect natures in the person of Jesus Christ in which both natures remain distinct: the integrity of the bread and wine remain though united with the body and the blood of Christ.

In the sacramental union the consecrated bread of the Eucharist is united with the body of Christ and the consecrated wine of the Eucharist is united with the blood of Christ by virtue of Christ's original institution with the result that anyone eating and drinking

these "elements"—the consecrated bread and wine—really eats and drinks the physical body and blood of Christ as well. Lutherans maintain that what they believe to be the biblical doctrine of the *manducatio indignorum* ("eating of the unworthy") supports this doctrine as well as any other doctrine affirming the Real Presence. The *manducatio indignorum* is the contention that even unbelievers eating and drinking in the Eucharist really eat and drink the body and blood of Christ. This view was put forward by Martin Luther in his 1528 Confession Concerning Christ's Supper:

“Why then should we not much more say in the Supper, "This is my body," even though bread and body are two distinct substances, and the word "this" indicates the bread? Here, too, out of two kinds of objects a union has taken place, which I shall call a "sacramental union," because Christ's body and the bread are given to us as a sacrament. This is not a natural or personal union, as is the case with God and Christ. It is also perhaps a different union from that which

the dove has with the Holy Spirit, and the flame with the angel, but it is also assuredly a sacramental union.”

It is asserted in the Wittenberg Concord of 1536 and in the Formula of Concord. The Formula of Concord couples the term with the circumlocution ("in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine") used among Lutherans to further define their view:

“For the reason why, in addition to the expressions of Christ and St. Paul (the bread in the Supper is the body of Christ or the communion of the body of Christ), also the forms: under the bread, with the bread, in the bread [the body of Christ is present and offered], are employed, is that by means of them the papistical transubstantiation may be rejected and the sacramental union of the unchanged essence of the bread and of the body of Christ indicated.”

God Bless,
Pastor Bruce



Announcements and Assignments

Date: February 12, 2013

Time: 1:30 p.m.



Coffee and Cookie Servers

February

- February 3 Polly Hanson
- February 10 Sylvia Teigen
- February 17 Doris Kassenborg
- February 24 Linda Koester

March

- March 3 Osie Juve
- March 10 Irene Olson
- March 17 Carolyn Edwards
- March 24 Regina Hanson
- March 31 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*



Concordianews.org

“Do Not Worry” is the subject for Kids Corner in February. Kids Corner is located in the congregation section of the website.

Concordia Annual Meetings

February 3, 2013

Join us after worship for a **potluck dinner**, followed by the congregation's annual meeting. This will in turn be followed by the annual meeting of the cemetery association.



We will begin our schedule of Lenten services on **Wednesday, February 13th**. Each Wednesday during Lent join us for an evening meal at 5:00 p.m. followed by services at 6:00 p.m.



Lenten supper and services will continue on

February 20	March 13
February 27	March 20
March 6	March 27

Announcements and Assignments

Alton Mjolness

1928-2013



We extend our sympathy to JoLyn Johnson and her family on the loss of her father, Alton Mjolsness on January 11, 2013.

Alton was born December 8, 1928, to Nels and Alma (Borgen) Mjolness in Perley, Minnesota. He grew up in Felton and graduated from Felton High School. After serving in the military, he returned to Felton where he farmed until 1992. Since that time, he had lived in Fargo ND.

The funeral was held January 19 at Wright Funeral Home in Moorhead. He will be buried in Concordia Cemetery.

Harriet Wangberg

1916-2012

Harriet Wangberg, age 96, died on December 12, 2012 in Bemidji. Her funeral was held on December 15, 2012 at First Lutheran Church, Bemidji. She will be interred at Concordia in the spring.

Announcements and Assignments

Harriet Wangberg was born January 18, 1916 in Binford, North Dakota. She was raised and educated there, graduating from high school in 1933. Her family moved to Moorhead where she attended Concordia College, from which she graduated in 1937.



At Concordia she met the love of her life, Reuben Wangberg. They were married there on October 4, 1941.

From 1941 to 1973, Harriet joined Reuben in serving Lutheran congregations in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

In 1973 her husband was called to serve at Concordia, but he died before taking that position. Harriet moved to Moorhead where she was active in Concordia C-400 and alumni activities and Lutheran Church Women.

After a stroke in 2007 she moved to Tamarack Court Assisted Living in Bemidji to be near family.

As her life and legacy are celebrated, those who know her “thank God every time (they) remember her ... because of (her) sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” And to that we say Amen ...

Prairie Daughters

The Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thortvedt

JAN. 22 - DEC. 30, 2013



*The Untold Story of
Early Female Artists
in Clay County*



HISTORICAL &
CULTURAL SOCIETY
OF CLAY COUNTY

Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Ave N, Moorhead, MN
218-299-5511
www.hcscconline.org

HIGH PLAINS
READER

This activity is funded in part by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation.



With Our Thanks

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Robert Burke

Matt & Terri Burke

In Memory of George Lee

Harold & Sally Horpedahl

In Memory of Alton Mjolsness

Regina Hanson Doris Kassenborg

Lloyd Gunderson Donald Johnson

Terry & Joy Eidem Verne & Carol Wik

Harold & Sally Horpedahl

Gregg & Kristi Trautwein

In Memory of LaVonne Akers

Regina Hanson Myron Hagene

Gregg & Kristi Trautwein

Mike & Kay Edwards

In honor of Margret Kragnes for her 90th Birthday

Harold & Sally Horpedahl

With Our Thanks

More Donations

Concordia Cemetery Fund (*cont'd*)

Donations

Lois Jensen Lois Stoutenburg
Jane & Ted Bekkerus

Concordia General Fund

In memory of George Lee

Margret Kragnes

Eva (Thortvedt) and Carl Hedstrom and their daughter Linda accepted the 2012 Clay County Heritage Award on behalf of all of the descendants of the Thortvedt family

for their multi-generational efforts to preserve the history of Clay County. The presentation took place during the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County's Fall Fundraiser.



Recipe of the Month

Tuna Melts

Serves 8



Ingredients

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 small can tuna, drained | 1/3 cup finely chopped celery |
| 1/8 cup chopped onion | 1 teaspoon mustard |
| 2 tablespoons mayonnaise | 4 English muffins, split and toasted |
| 8 slices tomato | |
| 8 slices cheese (American, cheddar, or provolone) | |

Directions

- Preheat broiler
- Mix together tuna, celery, mustard and mayonnaise
- Spoon onto English muffin halves
- Place a tomato and slice of desired cheese on each
- Broil until cheese melts; 3-5 minutes

Bits and Pieces



Do you still have old copies of the *Informer*?

All of the old issues of Concordia News can be found in the “Newsletter” section of our website. Now and then someone inquires about a story, recipe, or obituary that appeared prior to March of 2006 in our previous newsletter, *The Informer*.

If you have one or more issues of the old church newsletter (or know where we can find them), we’d like to borrow and scan the original(s) for the website so they are available to people interested in “old news.”

Sadly, we no longer have vacation bible school at Concordia in the summer. Those of us who did attend VBS at Concordia have great memories of that experience. We’d like to collect stories and photos of your recollections about Vacation Bible School at Concordia for the June edition of the *Concordia News*.



Bits and Pieces

Do you have special memories of any of the programs that you participated in? Who were your teachers? What kinds of craft projects did you make? What games did you play?

Send to Karolynn Teigen Decker, 915 4th Avenue South, Moorhead, 56560; or email to news@concordianews.org Deadline for these submissions is May 17, 2013.

Orabel's Altarpiece

By Markus Krueger

of the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

Reprinted by permission from the society newsletter

Sometimes a particular work of art is a milestone in the life of the artist. For Orabel Thortvedt (1896-1983), one of those milestone stories surrounds the *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane* altarpiece at the Concordia Lutheran Church in Moland Township. Orabel was a historian, a writer, and a documenter of seemingly everything that surrounded her. Much of the Thortvedt Family Papers collection in the Clay County archives comes from her hand. The story of this painting is preserved in the

Bits and Pieces

family diary, collected letters, and photographs from that collection. It is a story of Norwegian pioneers building a church, a tornado that destroyed it, the death of Orabel's beloved parents and the artist's life coming to a crossroad. Concordia Lutheran Church has roots in some of the earliest settlers of Clay County. After the banishment of the Dakota people (aka Sioux) from Minnesota following the 1862 US – Dakota War, and the sale of large expanses of Ojibwe (aka Chippewa) land in the Old Crossing Treaty the following year, very few families lived on Minnesota's Red River Frontier. In the summer of 1870, Ola Thortvedt, grandfather of Orabel, led his and two other families along with five single men from southeast Minnesota to a section of land along the Buffalo River. They were one of the earliest groups of Norwegians to settle the Red River Valley, then the western limit of the American frontier. The railroad came the next year, creating a line of towns south of them – Hawley, Glyndon, Moorhead – and bringing the Buffalo River pioneers new neighbors as the land filled with settlers. Many of the newcomers were Norwegian immigrants, often family or neighbors of the group Ola Thortvedt led. The Red River Valley became a magnet for Norwegian farmers in the 1870s and 1880s.

Bits and Pieces

It was not long before these Norwegian immigrant families organized churches. Moland congregation was formed in 1871 and the Thortvedts helped establish the Our Saviors congregation in 1874. The first service for Our Saviors was held in Tarje Grover's house, in the Norwegian language of course, and then moved to area schoolhouses before a church building was erected in 1884. In 1892, Our Saviors and Moland congregations merged to form Concordia Lutheran Church. Shortly after the merger, they ordered an altar painting. There are copies of the church records in the archives but they are written in Norwegian. Luckily, I share an office with Joern Bovoll, a Norwegian Concordia student interning for the Nordic Culture Clubs. Joern explained that the language has changed tremendously since the 1890s, but he did his best to plod through the scribbled cursive. In the spring meeting of 1894, he was able to make out that the church council authorized Pastor Oefstedal and J. Jensen to ask around for a painter so they could order an altar painting that would be fitting for the church and ready for next summer.

That altar painting is now in the care of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, donated by the church in 1988. Looking at the signature, it appears that Pastor Oefstedal and Mr.

Bits and Pieces

Jenson chose C. Ludvig Bockmann of Saint Paul for the job. He is listed in that city's 1895 directory as one of about 40 artists working in the city, specializing in oil and water color portrait paintings. The scene Bockmann painted was Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. You have seen this scene before. Imagine the painting in your head – Jesus kneels in prayer on top of a rocky hill, looking sadly to the sky, waiting for Judas to arrive with Roman soldiers. I'll bet you all my baseball cards that, whether you know it or not, you are thinking of a painting created by German artist Heinrich Hoffmann in 1890. The 1890s was the time of Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, and Edvard Munch, but none of these celebrated artists can touch the universal recognition of the paintings of Heinrich Hoffmann, an art teacher in Dresden whose name no one remembers. His *Christ in Gethsemane* has been copied over and over again to hang in churches or illustrate bibles, adapted into stain glass windows and knick knacks, and, as we can see, copied for an altarpiece in rural Minnesota just 4 years after the original was painted in Germany. C. Ludvig Bockmann's version of Hoffmann painting hung over the altar at Concordia Lutheran until May 27, 1931, when the church was totally destroyed by a tornado.

Bits and Pieces

Sifting through the rubble, the altarpiece was found. It was torn, “rent asunder from top to bottom” in the words of Orabel Thortvedt. It was brought to Orabel to repair. Orabel was home from Minneapolis after her first year of art school and lip reading classes (she was profoundly deaf). “I did my best;” she wrote in a 1968 letter to Reverend Joseph Vold about the painting. She taped the painting front and back where it ripped and painted over the tape on the image side. After fixing the original altar painting, Orabel made her own copy. “When it was finished I could not resist this rare chance to make a smaller copy of this painting so dear to our hearts.” She was given \$25 from the Ladies Aid to thank her for fixing the altarpiece, but the painting would stay on the second floor of the Thortvedt house for another five years. There was no church to take it to.

It took a long time to rebuild Concordia Lutheran Church. To say the Great Depression hit farmers hard is an understatement. In a 1973 interview, Oakport farmer Ray Gesell said “It didn’t make any difference how hard you worked or what you did. You couldn’t come out even.” While much of America experienced an economic boom during the “Roaring ‘20s,” American farmers started their Great Depression a decade earlier than everyone else. For twenty

Bits and Pieces

years, prices for grain, vegetables, and meat were too low for farmers to make a decent living. Levi Thortvedt struggled to send his daughter Orabel to college, first to the Minneapolis Institute of Art from 1930-32 and then to the University of Minnesota from 1932-34. In his diary entry for Sept 18th, 1933, Levi wrote (excuse his poor grammar and spelling) “Orable told me she would leave for Minneapolis next Saturday this was sad news to me it will be long and weary months for me – we had a long and good talk I much regrett my pittyfull Financial conditions I would have liked awfull well to aid her financially Butt my money all that I have worked for during my Whole life has gone to make Millionares & Billionares.” The Concordia congregation went to other churches for a few years while they saved up to build a new building. Meanwhile, Orabel went back to Minneapolis for school.

Orabel had some success in Minneapolis. All her life, she had a deep love of animals, especially horses and pet dogs and cats. This love and attention translated into her art, allowing her to capture an animal’s personality with a paintbrush. She came to the attention of an influential and wealthy member of Twin Cities high society, Mary Saunders Bulkley. Mary and her husband Kenneth Bulkley were both dog breeders, well connected in both the animal

Bits and Pieces

breeding circles and the art world. Mrs. Bulkley held a fancy tea party at her home to introduce Orabel Thortvedt to her friends. One of the guests was Clement Haupers, an artist and a king-maker in Minnesota's Depression-era art scene. Haupers asked Orabel to be one of 12 Minnesota artists to have their own display at the 1934 State Fair. Orabel was kept busy painting the show dogs and horses of Minnesota's upper crust, including a former candidate for governor and the heir to the Hamm's Beer fortune.

We'll continue this article about Orabel in the next issue of Concordia News.

Who was St. Valentine?

According to legend, Valentinus was a priest near Rome in about 270 A.D, a time of great persecution. He helped Christians escape this persecution. The emperor decided that marriage weakened his soldiers' resolve and outlawed it. Valentinus continued to perform marriages for the soldiers, in defiance of the law. He was sentenced to death by Emperor Claudius II and executed on February 14. It wasn't until the 14th Century that Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle introduced the notion that St. Valentine's Day should be linked with romantic love.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Annual Meetings and Potluck

Sunday, February 3 following worship

Lenten Services 6:00 p.m. Supper: 5:00 p.m.

February 20

February 27

WELCA

February 12, 2013 1:30 p.m.

Birthdays

February 17 Becky Jegtvig

February 2013

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To submit an item for the newsletter:

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