



Concordia News

January 2017



Volume 12

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

Number 1

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
From Pastor Bruce	1
Announcements & Assignments	3
With Our Thanks	4
Community Calendar	5
Envelope Page.....	6

As we anticipated the birth of the Christ child this Christmas so we now look forward to his baptism. In the history of the Church this occurs at the beginning of Epiphany. In



the history of Concordia we can recall that the tornado of 1931 which destroyed the original building also destroyed everything in it, if I recall correctly, except for the church bell, the candelabras and the Baptismal font. The endurance of that Baptismal font is what I would like to concentrate on below with the help of our bishop, Larry Wohlrabe, who recently wrote the following:

“...and while we’re at it we might a fresh look at some other things, too, like ... this baptismal font. For just as certainly as we come from dust and return to dust...we also. we whose bodies are at least 70% water – we also come from the water and return to the water of our baptism in Christ.

We could even say that someone’s either coming or going, whenever the water of baptism is poured out as it shall be today here at Christ Lutheran for little Micah...

...and whenever we dip our fingers in the water and retrace the mark on our brows, we do so as people who are always “coming and going” not just from the dust of this good earth, but from the waters of our submersion with the Crucified and Risen Christ.

Baptism, after all, at its core is a dying and a rising as St. Paul says: **“We have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”** (Romans 6:4)

Martin Luther, playing off St. Paul, declared that Baptism *“signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to lie before God in righteousness and purity forever.”* (Small Catechism, ELW p. 1165)

Which is to say that when we baptize someone or even just whenever we remember our baptism, someone is always coming and going, dying and rising again.

Oh sure, we take all kinds of pictures and try to freeze the moment of baptism in our memories ... but Baptism resists all such efforts to encase it in the past.

Baptism is never a static thing. It is always our daily starting point – our ongoing life, our perpetual returning to baptism, our daily dying and rising with Christ.

So I love how you folks at Christ Lutheran always position the baptismal font right here, located smack dab in the center of your worship space.

For truly this font and everything that happens here marks our whole life of faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ. This font is “front and center” precisely because it is our rescue plan, or GPS locator, the command center where we receive our marching orders in God’s mission. Someone’s always coming or going here ...

All our crookedness is straightened out here, all our waywardness is made right here, all our thin and fragile hope revived here, all our pathway through life illuminated here!

The font is where it all begins, where – truly – all the saints whom we remember on this All Saints Sunday ... the font is where we’ve all been birthed into Christ Jesus.

So please, my dear friends, if anyone ever asks you if you’ve been born again, ... please don’t skip a beat, but answer clearly, “Yes, yes, yes, I’ve been born again and again and again ... and again.”

From Pastor Bruce

For we are always turning and returning to our starting point. Our baptism is never stuck in the past. What baptism launches us into is a whole unfolding life of beholding how our God is turning us and turning our whole world around.

Jesus proclaims that good news in this bracing “steel-cut oatmeal” Gospel lesson. What an astonishing Great Reversal is described here in Luke 6, set in motion by blessings and woes that Jesus utters, to upend the world and call into question all the cherished assumptions we live by.

Truly, this perpetual coming and going, this death and resurrection way of life in Christ – it turns everything upside down.

What does this new Kingdom a’ coming, this “glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord” – what does it look like?

Surprise! It looks like losers (losers, about whom we’ve heard so much during this agonizing presidential campaign!) ... the Kingdom looks like losers trading places with winners. For in Jesus’ topsy turvy Kingdom everything and everyone gets re-valued.

Down and outers, those with growling stomachs, the forsaken and the reviled – those we’re dismissed as ‘losers’ are lifted up – granted sweats of honor at the Royal Table – switching places with those we usually regard as “winners” – all the wealthy, self-satisfied, happy, popular ones.

Jesus blessings and woes here in Luke 6 point us ahead to Jesus own Great Reversal, the Cross where Jesus surely looked like the world’s biggest loser, and the Empty Tomb where God made it crystal clear that all bets are off, and that absolutely nothing in this world is as it appears to be.

What Jesus talks about here, as it finds a home in our hearts, as it animates the choices we make, the path that we take ... as all that happens, Jesus’ way with us will be the end of us – the end of the Us we were all born with, the ancient Eve and the old Adam who resides deep in our bones – this old you, this old me, will not survive our walk with Jesus.

Loving enemies, treating haters kindly, embracing those whose lips drip with curses, praying for those who make life miserable, turning the other cheek, cheerfully parting with the shirts off our backs ... all those ways of being and acting in the world will certainly be the death of us, the death of that old you, that ancient ‘me, myself and I’ who temporarily resides within us.

Jesus is forever opening up a new way of life that evicts our tired, old, sinful selves ... so as to make room for the new creature, the new person whom Lord Jesus is forever calling forth. That’s what happens here in this refreshing, restoring water of baptism. That and that alone transforms us from sinners to saints.

Here, precisely here, in our baptism into Christ, God right-sizes our hearts, and right-wises our ways of thinking and believing and acting ... granting us a hope that will never disappoint us, an inheritance that can never be taken from us, an indelible cross-shaped seal on our foreheads that cannot be erased. And here’s the best news of all: our baptismal dying and rising with Christ, our resurrection here at the font means that the worst thing that happens to us will never be the last thing that happens to us! And if all this sounds like just one more election year whopper ... one final “liar, liar, pants on fire” campaign promise – please don’t just take my word on it. Listen, rather, as our lesson from Ephesians puts it ... listen rather for the quiet but compelling convicting voice of the Holy Spirit, who alone makes us wise and lets us understand what it means to know God.

On our own, all of this talk about the Great Reversal, can seem like a walk in the fog. But even in the fog, we never travel alone. The Spirit hounds us, finds us, turns us in our waywardness ... so that light will flood our hearts and we will understand the hope that was given to us when God chose us, in Christ Jesus the crucified and resurrected one, whose coming and going, whose own unending life becomes forever ours in the liberating water and Word of Baptism.

May the new beginning the New Year remind us all to recall the new beginning we can experience daily as we recall God’s unilateral saving activity in each of our own baptisms into new life and into His church. May you and yours be blessed anew this New Year.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bruce



Announcements and Assignments

Coffee and Cookie Servers

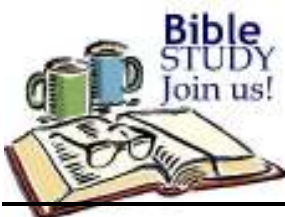
January 1 Clinton Babolian
 January 8 Irene Olson
 January 15 Orpha Hoelstad
 January 22 Delores Hagene
 January 29 Becky Jegtvig
 February 5 Polly Hanson
 February 12 Kathy Krogstad
 February 19 Sylvia Teigen
 February 26 Doris Kassenborg



Christmas “Untrimming”



On **Saturday, January 28th** at 1:00 we will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations. If you have any Christmas treats left to share, please bring them along for coffee and fellowship after all the decorations are packed away. Everyone is welcome!



Bible Study
 No meeting in January



Concordia Ladies
 No meeting in January

Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out
 7:30 a.m., January 27



Pastoral Care If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.

In January the subject in Kids Corner is “The Sacrament of Baptism.” Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of the website.



Veteran’s Coffee Hour
 Join your fellow veterans at the Fargo Air Museum from 10-noon Wednesday, January 11.

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let every new year find you a better person.
~ Benjamin Franklin

Annual Meetings February 5



A potluck will follow morning services. Volunteers needed to set up before and clean up after the meal.

Concordia’s annual meeting will follow the meal. Financial information to be included in the Annual Report should be turned in to Sylvia by **January 18th**.

The **Cemetery Association annual meeting** will follow the congregation’s meeting.

Cancellations



The pastor & council president will decide on cancellations of

worship and other activities. If the temperature is forecast to be minus 20 or below, services will automatically be cancelled. A phone chain will be used to notify members and participants. We will also notify WDAY Channel 6



television/WDAY radio 970.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

On Monday, January 16, we can honor the memory of Dr. King by participating in the “National Day of Service.” Volunteer a few hours of your time to help a local organization or just pay a visit to someone who would enjoy the company.

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In memory of the Partyke Family
Paul & Jenifer Partyke

In Memory of Walter Engesetter
Lois Jensen

In Memory of Glenn Kassenborg
Kirby & Candace Kassenborg

In Memory of Ray Jacobsen
Donald Johnson

In Memory of Gorder Family
Gloria Tomas

In Memory Burton Rockstad
Family of Burton Rockstad, Wescott
Tommerdahl, Joanne Mathison Biwer, Tim &
Linda (Mathison) Beal, Carol (Mathison) & Len
Sufka

Concordia News

In memory of Theodore Bekkerus
Steve and Alene Sladky

In memory of Walter Engesetter
Lois Jensen

In memory of Walter Engesetter
Lois Jensen

Theodore Bekkerus

1939-2016



Theodore William Bekkerus, 77, passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at Park Health and Rehab Center in St. Louis Park MN.

Ted was born on March 12, 1939 to Harold and Jane (Preston) Bekkerus.

He was a devoted son, father and grandfather. He was full of joy, love and laughter; his presence was felt by all and will be deeply missed.

Ted was preceded in death by his father. Surviving are his mother, Jane; former spouse, Judy; daughters, Bonnie (Steve), Brenda (Donnie) Cole, and Beth (Joe) LaCoursiere; 7 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members.

A memorial service was held on November 22 at Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka, MN. A local visitation was held on November 25 at the Fryn' Pan in Moorhead.

Recipe of the Month Crock Pot Loaded Potato Soup



Ingredients

- 6 medium potatoes
- 1 cup yellow onion
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 4-6 slices bacon
- Monterey Jack cheese

Directions

- Peel and cube potatoes, chop onion, mince garlic and place in crock pot.
- Sprinkle with salt and pepper and add chicken stock.
- Cover and cook on medium high setting for 3 ½ hours.
- Fry and chop bacon and set aside.
- When cooked, remove 2-3 cups of potatoes from the cooker and place in blender with heavy cream.
- Blend until smooth and pour back into the slow cooker and cook 30 minutes.
- When ready to service, garnish with bacon and cheese.



from the **Moorhead Daily News**



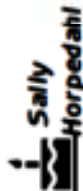







Monday, January 4, 1932

Christmas Tree Burns in School Disaster averted by presence of mind of group at Morken program.

Only the presence of mind of a group gathered at the West Side school to witness a Christmas program recently averted what might have been a serious disaster.

A Christmas tree suddenly caught fire as the children were giving their program and was entirely ablaze in an instant, but it was thrown to the floor and the fire smothered by overcoats thrown upon it. The program continued minus the decoration.

JANUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 WHITE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>  	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8 WHITE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King Day</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Annual Report Submissions Due</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>ROMEOs 7:30 a.m.</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Tree Untrimming 1 pm</p>
<p>29 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>				<p>Potluck/ Annual Meetings follow worship on Sunday, February 5</p>

Concordia Lutheran Church/Cemetery Association
6637 80th Avenue North
Glyndon, MN. 56547
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**To submit articles, recipes, announcements,
etc.**
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Moorhead MN 56560
Submission deadline is the 20th of the month

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Newsletter Staff

Editors: Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen
Treasurer: Walter Teigen
Web Edition: Alene Sladky