

Concordia News – Large Print

January 2017

Volume 12

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

Number 1



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From Pastor Bruce



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...

From Pastor Bruce

...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.

From Pastor Bruce

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.”

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.

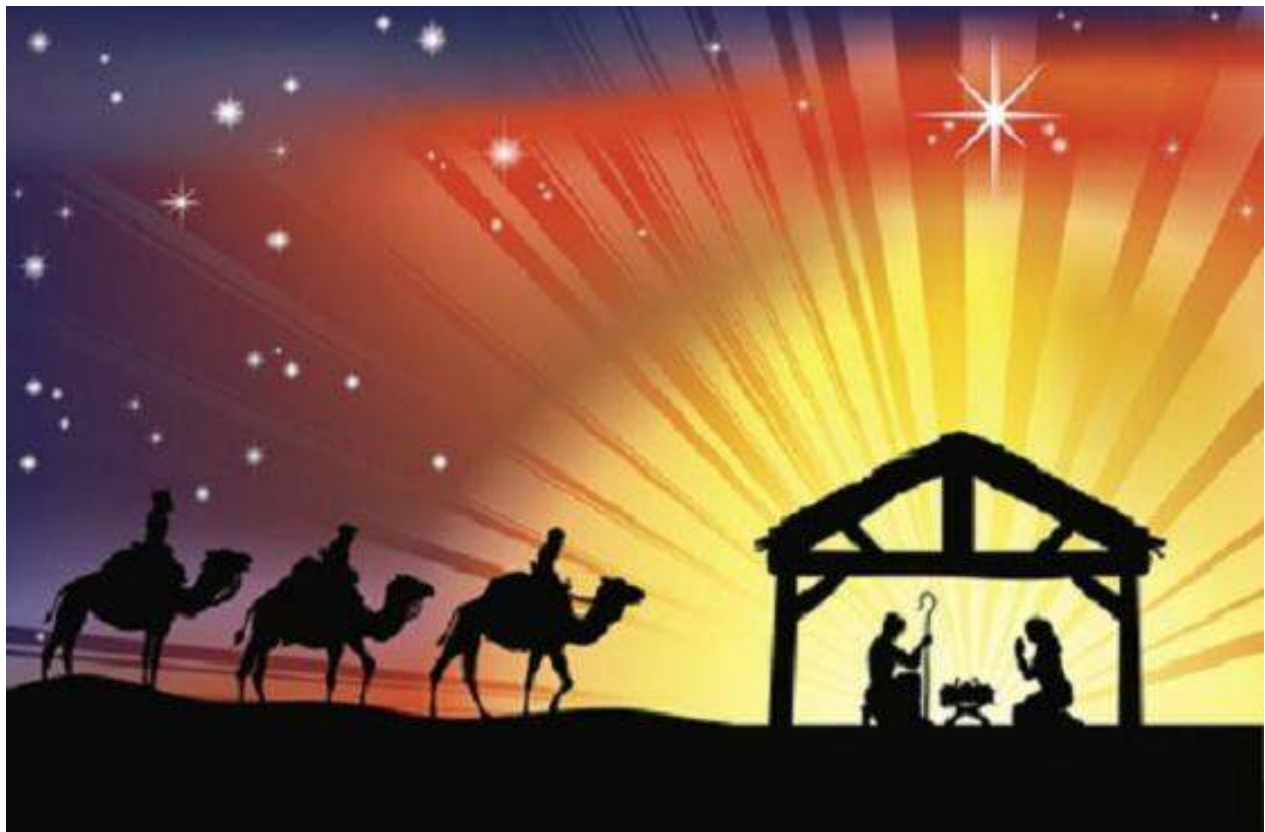
May the new beginning the New Year remind us all to recall the new beginning we can experience daily as we recall God's unilateral

From Pastor Bruce

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

Epiphany



Coffee and Cookie Servers

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



BIBLE STUDY

No meeting in January

Concordia Ladies

No meeting in January



Join the ROMEOS!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m. Friday, January 27 - Fryn' Pan



Pastoral Care

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*

The lesson for Kid's Corner in October is "The Sacrament of Baptism." Kid's Corner is located in the congregation section of our website.



Veterans Coffee Hour

Fargo Air Museum

1609 19th Avenue North, Fargo

Wednesday, January 11

10 a.m. – Noon



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.

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!



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.

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

~Benjamin Franklin

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.

With Our Thanks

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Fund

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 Jacobson : Donald Johnson

In Memory of the Gorder Family : Gloria Tomas

In Memory of Burton Rockstad

Family of Burton Rockstad Wescott Tommerdahl

Joanne Mathison Biver Tim & Linda (Mathison) Beal

Len & Carol (Mathison) Sufka

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In Memory of Walter Engesetter: Lois Jensen

In Memory of Theodore Bekkerus: Steve & Alene Sladky

In Memory of Caroline Gorder: Gloria Thomas

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.



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 you know would enjoy the company.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Bible Study 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 4

Veteran Coffee Hour 10 a.m., Wednesday, January 11

Annual Reports Due January 18

Tree “Untrimming” 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 28

ROMEOS 7:30 a.m., Friday, January 27

Birthdays

January 3 Sally Horpedahl

January 6 Germaine Gress

January 11 Polly Hanson

January 30 Irene Olson

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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

Write: Sylvia Teigen

915 4th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560



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Concordia Newsletter Staff

Editors: Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen

Treasurer/Distribution: Walter Teigen

Web Edition: Alene Sladky