

# Concordia News – Large Print

## February 2017

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Volume 12

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

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From Pastor Bruce



Our NW MN Synod bishop, Larry Wohlrabe produced this relevant and inspirational devotional:

## **Lutherans Making a World of Difference: Soderblom and Berggrav**

*“We are a modest people  
And we never make a fuss  
And it sure would be a better world  
If they were all as modest as us.  
We do not go for whooping it up,  
Or a lot of yikkety-yak.  
When we say hello, we avert our eyes  
And we always sit in the back.”*

To contend that Lutherans keep a low profile in the world would be an understatement. We avoid making a fuss about ourselves. We’re little known outside our tribe—we don’t exactly dominate the worlds of entertainment, industry or politics. Example: no Lutheran has ever been elected president of the United States.

Even when Lutherans did find themselves in the spotlight on the national scene for a time, thanks to the popular success of Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* show on public radio, what image was projected? We became *famous* for our *modesty* (or, as a former president of Concordia College termed it, *militant* modesty)! Keillor's weekly depictions of Lutherans as taciturn, bland purveyors of hotdishes laced with cream of mushroom soup soon produced predictable giggles from audience members whenever Keillor merely uttered the word "Lutheran!"

As much as we may have enjoyed Keillor's humor, recognizing so much that rings true especially for we Lutherans of the upper Midwest, I fear that the storyteller from Lake Wobegon did us no favors. His homespun monologues did not even hint at rich, full tapestry of global Lutheranism.

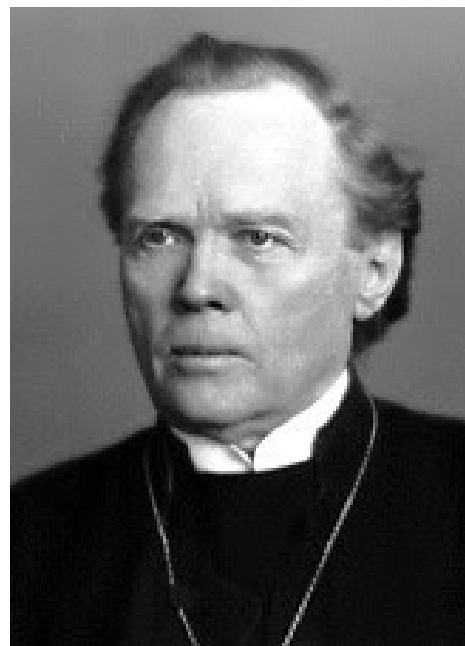
During 2017, as we observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I want to lift up some Lutherans whose names may be unfamiliar to you. My goal is to introduce (or in some cases, re-introduce) some Lutherans *through whom God has worked redemptively in the world*.

Don't worry, we'll still be modest about ourselves. But we'll also be bold about what God has been doing in and through the lives of Lutherans. Our ELCA tagline gets it right: *God's work. Our hands.*

## ***Soderblom and Berggrav***

This month we honor two Scandinavian Lutheran bishops who made a world of difference during and after the two World Wars of the 20th century. On January 14 our church commemorates Evind Josef Berggrav (b. 1884) who died on January 14, 1959. On January 15 we observe the birthday of Nathan Soderblom (1866-1931).

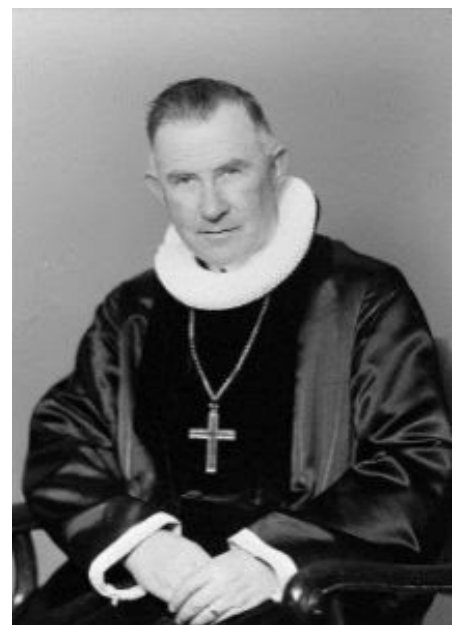
Soderblom was born in Trono, Sweden and grew up the son of a pietist Lutheran pastor. A young man with tremendous academic gifts, he attended the University of Uppsala in Sweden and in 1901 received his doctorate at the Sorbonne in France. Although he might have worked fruitfully his whole life as a professor of religion, the Church of Sweden called him to serve as a priest (pastor) in 1893 and in 1914 elected him Archbishop of Uppsala and Primate of the Church of Sweden.



Soderblom is remembered for the global leadership he exerted as head of the Church of Sweden during and after World War I (1914-1918). He actively intervened on behalf of prisoners of war and displaced persons. In order to undertake such ministries of mercy

more effectively, Soderblom also sought to overcome the divisions that existed among the Christian churches. This interest in ecumenism hearkened back to his own time as a college student. While attending a conference of the Christian Student Conference in New England in 1890, Soderblom was so deeply moved that he wrote in his diary: *Lord, give me humility and wisdom to serve the great cause of the free unity of thy church.* Soderblom's ecumenical vision culminated in his convening of the Stockholm Conference in 1925, which brought together Anglican, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians—a precursor of the World Council of Churches that was formed in 1948. For his efforts Soderblom became the first clergyperson to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930.

Berggrav was born in 1884, in the port city of Stavanger, Norway. His father was the Bishop of Hamar, Norway. Although young Eivind was initially planning to become an engineer, he was drawn to ministry and received his theological degree in 1908. Following a time of discerning his call—during which he edited a newspaper, taught and did graduate study in England and Germany—he was ordained by the



Church of Norway and became the pastor of rural parish near Oslo. Six years later he became a prison chaplain in a prison in Oslo and engaged in doctoral studies at the University of Oslo. In 1928 he became Bishop of Tromsø in far northern Norway, and nine years later he was made Bishop of Oslo and Primate of Norway.

Berggrav's mettle was tested when in 1940 the Nazis invaded Norway. He and the other bishops of the Church of Norway opposed the Nazis—insisting on the inviolability of clerical confidentiality, noninterference by the Nazis in the spiritual province of the church, and maintenance of the rights of the Jews. When in 1942 the Nazis installed Vidkun Quisling as head of Norway's occupation government, Berggrav was stripped of his title as bishop and placed under house arrest. In protest over 92% of the priests and all seven bishops of the Church of Norway resigned their offices on Easter Sunday. An underground church was formed, and Berggrav was periodically able to visit the church (in disguise) until in 1945 he escaped from the Nazis and remained in hiding until the liberation of Norway.

Berggrav is remembered—in addition to his brave defiance of the Nazi occupiers of Norway—for his post-war reorganization of the church, with more active participation of laity; his leadership in the World Council of Churches; and his participation in founding the

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in 1947. The esteem within which he was held became apparent when in December 1944 he became one of the only Protestant religious figures to be pictured on the cover of TIME magazine.

## Remembering and Responding

- In your daily devotions give thanks to God for the faithful witness of Bishop Berggrav (on January 14) and Bishop Soberblom (on January 15).
- Lutherans are sometimes called “ethical quietists” who simply support whatever government or ruler is in charge—even when those in authority propound unjust policies or practices. Recall Bishop Berggrav’s stubborn resistance to the Nazis during World War II. He wrote: *“If opposition to those in power is necessary it should be on the ground that others have suffered unduly and on the presupposition that such action would bring still more suffering to oneself. Thomas Aquinas says, ‘To bear with patience the evil which is committed against one is a sign of perfection. To be patient, however, with the evil which is done to others, is a sign of imperfection—year, it is a sin.’”* How can we know when it is right to obey one’s governing authorities—and when it is time to resist them?

- Both Soderblom and Berggrav advocated for greater cooperation among Christians of various denominations. This month we will observe the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (January 18-25, 2017). How could your congregation mark this ecumenical celebration?

(For resources, go to

[http://www.geii.org/week\\_of\\_prayer\\_for\\_christian\\_unity/theme\\_announcement\\_2017.html](http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/theme_announcement_2017.html))

- Learn about and pray for Christians who are suffering for their faith. Give thanks for and contribute toward individuals and organizations that foster ecumenical witness and service in God's world.

Lawrence R. Wohlrabe  
Bishop, Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## Coffee and Cookie Servers

February 5	Polly Hanson	March 5	Linda Koester
February 12	Kathy Krogstad	March 12	Gordy Kassenborg
February 19	Sylvia Teigen	March 19	Carolyn Edwards
February 26	Doris Kassenborg	March 26	Clinton Babolian



### BIBLE STUDY

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1

## Concordia Ladies



Tuesday, February 14

1:30 p.m. Fryn' Pan

## Join the ROMEOS!

*Retired Old Men Eating Out*

7:30 a.m. Friday, February 24 - Fryn' Pan



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 "Who Do You Say That I Am?" Kid's Corner is located in the congregation section of our website.



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## Veterans Coffee Hour

Fargo Air Museum

1609 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Fargo

**Wednesday, February 15**

10 a.m. – Noon



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

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## Ash Wednesday

**March 1 - Supper at 5 p.m.**



With Our Thanks

# **Donations**

## **Concordia Cemetery Fund**

*In Memory of the Partyke Family*

Paul & Jenifer Partyke

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## Milk Cake



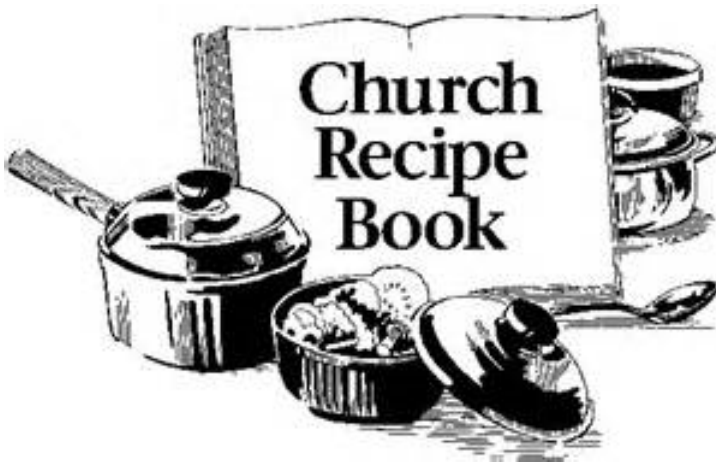
### Ingredients

1 ½ cup flour	1 tsp baking powder
½ cup butter	1 cup sugar
5 eggs	½ tsp vanilla extract
2 cups whole milk	14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
12 oz. can evaporated milk	
1 ½ cups heavy whipping cream	
1 cup sugar	1 tsp vanilla extract

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9 X 13 cake pan.
- Sift together flour & baking powder and set aside.
- Cream butter & sugar and add eggs. Mix well.
- Add flour a little at a time and mix well.
- Pour into prepared pan and bake 30 minutes.
- Pierce cake several times with a fork. Let cool.
- Combine whole, condensed and evaporated milk and pour over cake.
- Whip cream, sugar and vanilla and spread over top of cake.
- Keep refrigerated.

# COOKBOOK ORDER FORM



We are doing a cookbook and are taking preorders so we have an idea on approximately how many copies to order. The deadline for preordering will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cost per book is \$13.00, after the deadline the cost will be \$15.00 per book. The proceeds from the cookbook will go to the General Fund.

We will ship the cookbook to you when they arrive, which will be around Mother's Day.

Price per book	\$13.00
Shipping & Handling	<u>\$4.00</u>
Total Cost per book-	\$17.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many copies: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra copies will be available after this date at the cost of \$15.00 per book, plus S&H.

Make checks out to: Concordia Lutheran Church

Send to: Sue Kassenborg

5955 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Glyndon, MN 56547

# Dates to Remember

## ***Worship Services every Sunday***

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

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

***Bible Study***                  5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 1

***Concordia Women*** 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 14

***Veteran Coffee Hour*** 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 15

***ROMEOS***                  7:30 a.m., Friday, February 24

## ***Birthdays***

February 2    Verne Wik

February 15   Nancy Ruud

February 17   Becky Jegtvig

***ASH WEDNESDAY   March 1*** Supper 5:00 p.m.

## February 2017

The large print edition of Concordia News is only available on-line.

*To submit an item for the newsletter:*

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