



Volume 12

# Concordia News

## October 2017



Number 10

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

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For over half a century rural congregations have raised the children to faithfully adhere to the faith. However, the beneficiaries of this investment have been urban congregations.



The out-migration of young people from rural areas shows no sign of reversal. Increasingly, rural churches are graying and in some cases closing. We do not get to vote on these trends, however, we can choose how to interpret these trends. Perhaps the most beneficial way to look at these events is to say that, in our case Concordia Lutheran has invested in the future of the broader church, even though with some notable exceptions, the investment into our young people over the decades has not yielded a critical mass that would ensure Concordia's ongoing ministry for the next century and a half (as it was established a century and a half ago). However, while rural congregations may not believe that they will be around to greet the 22 century, we hope that the broader church will endure. To this end we continue to contribute to the larger church through our benevolence offerings. I'd like to pass on the following encouraging reports about young people investing in not only the broader church but in actively serving our mission to reach out to the unchurched. I hope you find the same encouragement from this as I did. This comes from Bishop Wohlrabe:

Over the last decade congregations have been asking, "Where have all our young adults gone?" The anxiety that drives this question has been heightened by the release of reports like a 2012 Pew Research study that reported, "The number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace. One-fifth of the U.S. public – and **a third of adults under 30** – are religiously unaffiliated today, the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling."



While church folks tear their hair out wondering how to replenish our ranks of young adults, the best-kept secret in our ELCA has been the growing success of a movement called Young Adults in Global Mission or YAGM, for short. Today, there are over 800 "alumni" of the YAGM program that began in 1999. Each year the YAGM program receives applications from roughly twice the number of young adults as the funding for the program can allow.

What is YAGM? Answer: "The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors.

## From Pastor Bruce

They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.” This month’s column puts the spotlight on eight Lutherans making a world of difference—all of them YAGMS with connections to our synod.

These young adults have spent (or are spending) time in a variety of countries and arenas of ministry:

- **Jen Engquist**, interim YAGM Co-Coordinator in Cambodia for 2016-2017. Jen also served as a YAGM in Argentina in 2010-2011.
- **Colin and Jeni Grangaard**, beginning their third year as YAGM Country Coordinators in Jerusalem and the West Bank. (Back in 2004-2005 Colin had also served as a YAGM at a chemical dependency center in Edinburgh, Scotland.) Colin formerly served as a pastor at Trinity of Moorhead and Our Savior’s of Barnesville; Jeni pastored Glyndon Lutheran Church.
- **Levi Heath** of Bemidji, currently a YAGM teaching English and music to young people in the villages of Kötcse and Nagycsepely in Hungary.
- **Tessa Moon Leiseth** of Moorhead, who with her husband **Deacon Jon Leiseth** (and their children Isaac and Sophia), served 2012-2017 as YAGM Country Coordinators in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.
- **Britta Moen** of Wadena, who was a YAGM in Madagascar, 2016-17, serving with the Sefama Lutheran School for the Deaf.
- **Elise Sperling** of Moorhead, who served as a YAGM in Cambodia, 2015-16, volunteering with Life With Dignity, a non-profit organization that works in rural development; she also taught English to 300 students in a local school.
- **Andrew Steele**, who currently serves on the ELCA churchwide staff in Chicago, was a YAGM 2010-2011 at Bloemfontein, South Africa where he worked with an orphanage filled with children whose parent(s) died of AIDS; he also helped with worship at a local congregation.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Bruce*

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### More about the Young Adult Global Mission from the ELCA Website:

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world. A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God’s work in the world, and their place within it all.

Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women’s issues and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

Candidates for Young Adults in Global Mission apply to the program at-large rather than to a specific country. Applicant preferences are taken into account but the final decision about where volunteers serve is made by Global Mission staff and YAGM country coordinators in mid-April. Current YAGM country programs

include: Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Cambodia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa and United Kingdom

Applications for the program open on **December 1**, and are due Feb. 15 each year, for service beginning that same August.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Come, imagine yourself in the world!

**Coffee and Cookie Servers**

October 1 Sue Kassenborg  
 October 8 Irene Olson  
 October 15 Germaine Gress  
 October 22 Becky Jegtvig  
 October 29 Polly Hanson  
 November 5 Kathy Krogstad  
 November 12 Regina Hanson  
 November 19 Delores Hagene  
 November 26 Linda Koester



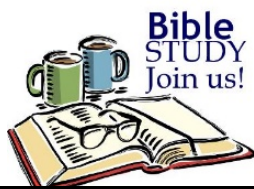
**Daylight Time ends Sunday, Nov. 5**

... Set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4.



**Bible Study**

Wednesday, October 4  
 5:30-7:00 p.m.



**Concordia Ladies**

Tuesday, October 10  
 1:30 p.m.  
 Fryn' Pan

**Join The Romeos!**

*Retired Old Men Eating Out*  
 7:30 a.m., October 27  
 Fryn' Pan



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

The subject in Kids Corner this month is "Faith and Tradition." Kids Corner is located in the congregation section of the website.



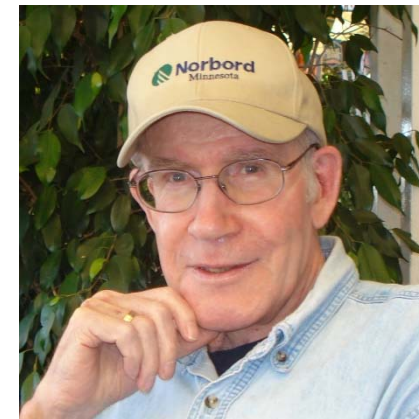
**Veteran's Coffee Hour**

Join your fellow veterans at the Fargo Air Museum from 10-noon Wednesday, October 11.



**Have your treats ready!**

Tuesday, October 31



**Steven Sladky 1946-2017**

Steven Roger Sladky died at home from COPD on Aug. 31, 2017. Steve was born in Bemidji on August 19, 1946 to Roger

and Marjorie (Werner) Sladky. His job with Solar Gas Company brought him to Walker in 1968 to open that company's local office. By the mid-1970s he had established himself as an independent operator in the 'digger business.' He would often remark that he was able to spend most of his adult life doing what every little boy in a sandbox dreams of - using big machines to move dirt and driving trucks. Steve also enjoyed playing bass guitar in local bands for over 25 years. In 2000, Steve married Alene Grover and they became great traveling companions, visiting all of the lower 48 states. He dealt with end stage COPD with determination and grace, and despite the overwhelming limitations the disease placed on him, found great joy in most days during the last often difficult years of his life.

Steven is survived by his wife, Alene; son, Warren Sladky, Minneapolis; three brothers, three nieces, a nephew and two great-nephews. He shared a special relationship with stepson Graham Taylor, and enjoyed time spent with grandchildren Dylan and Mazzy Taylor and other extended and blended family members. He is greatly missed by Jack the cat and black lab Trixie.

Remembrance was held in Bemidji on Tuesday, September 5, with the interment service in Concordia's cemetery on September 6.





# **FALL PORK LOIN DINNER**

Sunday, October 15

*Following worship  
11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

*Free Will Offering*



**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6470 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Glyndon MN 56547

# Donations

## Concordia Cemetery Association

*In Memory of Steven Sladky*  
Ray & JoLyn Johnson  
Friends & family of Steve Sladky  
Larry & Diane Norris  
Dave Pfeffer  
Hadeland Lag of America, Inc.

## Concordia News

*In Memory of Steven Sladky*  
Kjell & Orpha Hoelstad  
Bruce & Kathy Krogstad  
Friends & family of Steve Sladky  
*In Memory of Dorothy Lee*  
Don Johnson & Bev Edenborg



## Reformation Sunday October 29



Martin Luther was an Augustinian monk and theology professor who nailed a document listing his concerns about church practice to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on Halloween, 1517. "The

95 Theses" is credited as the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation. Luther felt that the sale of indulgences was a fund raising effort that did nothing to assure the donor or his family member(s) a place in heaven; justification was by faith alone.

When a group of German princes who supported Luther sent a letter of protest to the Pope, the term "Protestant" was born.

Martin Luther never intended to start a new religion, and insisted that his only desire was to reform the Catholic Church, not replace it. Nevertheless, his view of our personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the foundation for today's Lutheran Church.

## Recipe of the Month Lemon Blondies



### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- zest of 1/2 lemon
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

### for the glaze:

- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- zest of 1/2 lemon

### Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350. Prepare an 8 x 8 pan by spraying with cooking spray or lining with foil, and set aside.
- In a large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer, beat together the butter, sugar, and lemon zest until light and fluffy.
- Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition, then add the lemon juice.
- Add the flour and salt, and mix until just combined.
- Scoop the batter into the prepared pan and smooth into an even layer.
- Bake 20-25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the brownies comes out clean. Let cool 10-15 minutes.
- *To make the glaze*
- Whisk together the powdered sugar, lemon juice, and lemon zest, then pour over the brownies, spreading evenly to coat.
- Let cool completely before slicing and serving.



**Thank you** to Pastor Bruce for his care and concern and for the expressions of sympathy from the Concordia

community on my husband Steve's passing. To the prayer chain: Thank you for your support of Steve during the last few months of his life. I know it made a difference.

*Alene Sladky*



*From the*  
**Moorhead Daily News**  
**Friday, October 30, 1936**  
*Front page*

**LEVI THORTVEDT, CLAY RESIDENT**  
**66 YEARS DIES TODAY**  
*Came overland with party of*  
**Norwegians**  
*by covered wagon*  
**Pioneer succumbs at home in Moland**  
**Township; Funeral not arranged**

Levi Thortvedt, 74, one of Clay County's earliest and best known pioneers, died this morning at his farm home in Moland Township, where he had resided since 1870.

His death came less than a month after that of his wife, who died October 6.

Mr. Thortvedt was a year old when his parents, the late Mr. & Mrs. Ole G Thortvedt, left Norway where he was born January 31, 1860, and came to America. Locating first in Houston County, Minn., the family lived there for nine years. It was in 1870 that Ole Thortvedt brought his family to Clay County, one of its earliest pioneers. The place where the Thortvedt family came became the so-called Buffalo River Settlement.

His marriage to Ingeborg Midgarden took place on February 23, 1883. She also was a child at the time she began her residence in Minnesota. Together they had continued to farm the land which Mr. Thortvedt received from his father.

Surviving are three sons: Ole, Dilworth; Goodwin, Glyndon; and Norman, at home; seven daughters: Mrs. Albert Johnk, near Moorhead; Mrs. Dora Berg, Glyndon; Miss Stella Thortvedt, at home; Mrs. Hilman Nelson, near Glyndon; and Misses, Eva, Orabel and Florence at home, and two sisters, Mrs. G. O. Lee, Glyndon, and Mrs O. C. Miller, Alberta, Canada. There are nine grandchildren.

Funeral services have not been arranged, but the body is at the Wright Funeral Home.

Telemarken, Mr. Thortvedt's birthplace, was the point from which the Thortvedt family sailed in 1861. They landed in Quebec after eight weeks of traveling. A short time was spent in Wisconsin followed by purchase of land in Houston County, Minn. where they stayed until May 18, 1870.

Ambitious and with a pioneering zest, Ole Thortvedt talked with friends and in the summer of 1870 persuaded a small band of Norwegians in Houston County to start for the Red River Valley with Ottertail County as their destination. The group consisted of three families, four single men and an old man who possessed a large mule and a single wagon. Ole Thortvedt was leader of the group. In his family were his wife, Thone Saangdal

Thortvedt, three daughters, Joraand 16, Thone, 13, and Signe, 7, and Levi, who was 10.

The second family was that of Aanon (Gunderson) Gjeitsta, brother of Ole Thortvedt, his wife Thone, and their four sons, Gunder, 11; Gustav, 7; John, 5; and Andreas, 2. Tarje Skrei, his wife Gunild, and their only daughter Signe, 4, made up the third family. The single men were Ola Midgarden, Halvor (Salvesen) Fendalsveit, Ola Anderson, and Tarjei Muhle.

Four pair of oxen, four horses, sheep, and chickens were brought with the group. The animals' desire to return home made it necessary for a night guard through part of the trip. In three days the band had traveled as far as Rochester, Olmsted County, They did not travel on Sunday. By the next Saturday they had reached St Paul. Saturday, June 4, they were in St Cloud. It was there that Mr. Thortvedt had his first glimpse of the Red River oxcarts which he was so fond of describing during short talks given at meetings in the county within the past few years. Sauk Center was reached by Sunday, June 12.

At Alexandria, which they reached on June 15, they met Ole Strandvold, who had already taken a claim near Georgetown, at that time a Hudson Bay post. New enthusiasm was instilled in the travelers by his accounts. Under his leadership the pioneers trekked overland to Evansville, Osakis, and numerous other prairie villages, camping overnight wherever the scouts could find suitable spots. Eventually they came to Ottertail County, reaching the Bois de Sioux River, following this stream to its junction with the already famous Red River of the North.

Up this historic river they traveled by easy stages, finally arriving in Clay County, the spot which they hoped would be the land of promise for all of them.

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## One Sunday Morning...

As the Lutheran pastor arrived for worship, he noticed Ole standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flag mounted on either side of each name. The old Norwegian had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside Ole, and said quietly, "Good morning, Ole."





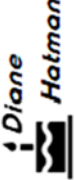








*From the Ole & Lena files*



"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, vat is dis?" Ole asked, pointing to the plaque. The pastor said, "It's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque and taking in the list of names. Finally Ole's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Vich service, da 8:30 or do 10:45?"

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# OCTOBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship 	2 	3 Concordia Ladies 1:30 pm 	4 Bible Study 5:30-7:00 pm 	5	6	7
8 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	9  <i>Diane Hatman</i>	10 Concordia Ladies 1:30 pm 	11 Veterans Coffee Hour 10-noon 	12	13	14
15 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship 	16	17	18  <i>Paul &amp; Karolynn Decker</i>	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 	21
22 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship  <i>Lloyd Gunderson</i>	23	24	25	26	27 Romeos 7:30 am 	28
29 RED 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	30	31 HALLOWEEN 				



**Concordia Lutheran Church/Cemetery Association**  
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