

Concordia News – Large Print

March 2019

Volume 14

A newsletter for members,

Number 4

family, and friends of

Concordia Lutheran Church and

Concordia Cemetery Association



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As we are in the season of Lent, it is good to spend some time reflecting on the themes of darkness, sin, brokenness and despair. The temptation is to only look outwards, which is convenient as it focuses our thoughts on others' responsibility for the perpetuation these issues and avoids our own complicity in doing the same.



Lent is not a season that accommodates spiritual arrogance, a quality that exists in us all, to one degree or another. What has been called "spiritual pride", would have us look towards other people's sin and deny our own. However, the cross (the main object during Lent), will never let us off that easily. The apostle Paul wrote, "...for we are crucified with Christ, therefore it is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us." Paul says that because of our sharing in Christ's crucifixion we will also, therefore, share in his resurrection. These are the central themes of baptism and baptism completion/fulfillment in our death as embodied in the metaphor of drowning (of the old Adam/Eve) and the resurrection of the new individual.

So Lent rather than being a depressing time is oddly an uplifting (sorry for the pun) time as the completion of the season of Lent is Easter, that is, Christ (and our) resurrection. Thanks be to God

(literally) for this season when we remember and relive Christ's faithfulness even unto death, death on a cross but also his resurrection on our behalf.

We are in Lent and Easter is coming.

God Bless,

Pastor Bruce

PS -- It has been a long and hard winter for our community. But the days are now longer than the nights and that will just continue until spring arrives in all its fullness. In the meantime we muddle our way through (as I write this I am at home not at the VA with a reoccurring cold). But viruses leave us, as will winter, as ultimately will all suffering and even death itself in the coming of Christ's glorious Spring. Thanks be to God!



Coffee and Cookie Servers



April 7	Carolyn Edwards	May 5	Sue Kassenborg
April 14	Germaine Gress	May 12	Barb Grover
April 21	Lloyd Gunderson	May 19	Clinton Babolian
April 27	Orpha Hoelstad	May 26	JoLyn Johnson
March 31	Linda Koester		

Bible Study



No Bible Study In April



Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, April 9

1 p.m.

Fry'n Pan



Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m., Friday, April 26

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.

In March the subject in Kids Corner is “Spy Wednesday.” 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, April 10

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MAY 18

HERITAGE LUNCHEON

MONDAY, MAY 27

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.

~Doug Larson

LENTEN



Mid-Week Worship

Supper at 5 p.m.

Services follow

Wednesdays April 3, 10

HOLY WEEK: Maundy Thursday

Services only at 5 pm



HAM DINNER

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 14

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Easter Traditions Around the World

Poland: On Easter Monday boys try to soak people with buckets of water, recalling the baptism of Prince Mieszko on that day in 996.



Help Us Get Ready for the Heritage Luncheon!



Sunday, April 28: After church we'll be making **krumkaker** and **pepperkaker**. Bring your iron. Batter and other equipment will be provided.

Thursday, May 9: At 4:00 we'll make **rommegrøt**. All materials provided. The best part will be our good workers coming to make the grøt. Our crews make *really* good rommegrøt!

Friday, May 17: At 10:00 am we'll set up for the heritage luncheon on Saturday, May 18.

Easter Traditions Around the World

Australia: Bunnies are considered pests that wreck crops. A marsupial called the Bibly, with big ears and a pointy nose, takes the rabbit's place in Easter tradition.





Margret Kragnes 1922-2019

Margret Thordarson Kragnes passed away peacefully at Eventide on Eighth in Moorhead, MN on February 18, 2019 at the age of 96.

She was born August 23, 1922 in Point Roberts, Washington to Icelandic parents and had to tell people how to spell her name the Icelandic way the rest of her life. Her surroundings in Point Roberts gave her a life-long love of flowers, mountains, the ocean, and beautiful sunsets. She began helping out in the family store at age 7, but continued her schooling. She graduated from high school in Bellingham, Washington and later studied accounting at Peterson's Business College in Seattle.

Margret worked several different jobs in Seattle during and after the war years, and met Russell Kragnes at a dance in Seattle in 1948. After deciding they "were just meant for each other" they married in Seattle later that year and moved to the Red River Valley to farm with Russell's parents.

While raising their four children and farming, both Margret and Russell showed a strong commitment to community service. Margret taught Sunday school for 11 years, was a Band Parents Group member, a four-time prom committee member, a 4-H leader, and a treasurer of the Moorhead Conference

of Lutheran Church Women. She was always active in Concordia Church Women and held almost every office, some more than once. She closed the books on being historian in 2010, her last official office held.

She and Russell loved to travel and eventually visited all 50 states; went to Australia and New Zealand; and took a cruise through the Panama Canal. She finally got to Iceland with her daughter and son-in-law in 2005.

When asked if it was hard to have an empty nest when their youngest went to college she said, "I cried for two weeks. Then I took a pottery class." She kept learning and welcoming new adventures all her life, and at the time of her death had just begun re-reading "Gone With the Wind," a novel that had so captured her fancy when it first came out that she stayed up all night to read and faked being sick the next day so she could finish it.

Her survivors will miss her quick wit, her sense of humor, her faith in God, her reverence for the earth, and her loving support of family. Those survivors include her children; Verna (Rick Hall), Moorhead, MN; David (Peggy), Felton, MN; Amy (Gary Krause), Omaha, NE; and JoAnn Jones, Moorhead; eight grandchildren and six great-grand-children. Margret was preceded in death by her loving husband, Russell; her parents, Ben and Runa Thordarson; her

brother, Helgi Thordarson; and her sister, Hilda Thordarson Castellano.

Her funeral service was scheduled to be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019, but bad weather delayed the service until Monday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m. at Wright Funeral Home, with visitation an hour earlier. Lunch was served following the service. Burial will take place in Concordia's cemetery in the spring.

A Lenten Tradition

One year for Lent, I decided that rather than *giving up* something, I would find a way to improve my life (and the lives of others) during those 40 days and 40 nights. It started with my grandparents. All of my grandparents lived in Ohio, so they lived about four hours away from our family. They were all very important to me and I realized that even with the distance, I could build a stronger relationship to them during Lent by starting a letter writing campaign. I decided to write to all of them every week during Lent and it felt good to connect with them in a note beyond the typical thank-you note: I was writing something deeper about how they impacted my life and why they were important to me.



Once Lent was over, I thought I was done with my “Lenten sacrifice.” But, I found out that my grandparents came to look forward to my notes and that I had just started a life-long journey, not just a Lenten one.

My grandmother, Lola, lived to be 102 years old. We were so lucky that she lived in a nursing home close to us for the last 12 years of her life, so that we could see her often—even when she began to forget our names. When she came to live in the nursing home and when she died, my parents found my letters to her—she had saved them. That meant so much to me that she enjoyed our conversation from a distance.

When my Nanny got remarried to Bill, I kept up the tradition with him, even after Nanny died. He had been important to her and so he was important to me.

I think that is the gist of thank-you notes, or notes of any kind. While they may be old-fashioned and time-consuming to write, these notes are a very personal way to show and tell someone how important they are to us. As Lent has just started, I’ve decided that our family will do the same thing: we will remember each day what or who we are thankful for, and then we will choose one person to write to each week. What or who are you thankful for? Have you told them lately? Lent is the perfect time to share your appreciation.

trustiseverything.com

With Our Thanks
Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Margret Kragnes

Marge Brantner

Terry & Joy Eidem

Trent & Laura Eidem

Lloyd Gunderson

Delores & Gerald Hagene

Helen Kassenborg

William & Sharon Lipp

Gregg & Kristi Trautwein

Dalan & Diane Rasmussen

Marge Lee

David & Gloria Lee

Concordia General Fund

In Memory of Margret Kragnes

Stan & Lorraine DeJong

Germaine Gress

Lee Eidem

Doris Kassenborg

Tom & Sherry Watt

Keith & Kathy Hanson

Jorgee Mjolsness

Concordia News

In Memory of Margret Kragnes

Lorna Rockstad

Bonita (Swanson) Lilly



Verna, David, Amy and I miss our mom, but your kind condolences and loving stories and words eased our grief. Thank you. We also wish to acknowledge those who gave gifts to various Concordia funds in memory of our mom, Margret Kragnes.

Joanne (Kragnes) Jones

Peter and the Resurrection

Profound sadness coupled with terror wrapped Peter's stomach and clenched it into tight, painful knot.

Yes, Jesus had told his disciples that he would be killed, even that he would be crucified. But Peter hadn't believed it. When you see daily miracles and hear incisive teaching from a confident public figure, you refuse to acknowledge that anything could ever change. But overnight, Peter's world collapsed.

They had eaten Passover together on Thursday night. But only few hours later, Jesus was under arrest. A hasty trial lit by flickering lamps in the high priest's palace condemned Jesus. Then early-morning shuttles to Pilate, then Herod, then back again to Pilate sealed his fate. By 9 a.m. soldiers were pounding nails into his hands and feet, jerking him upright on a cross to let him hang in the sun --

until the sun itself hid its face and left the onlookers to watch the Master die in the eerie chill of this very black day.

Peter had fled. In fact, none of the Twelve remained to see him buried. Only Mary Magdalene and a couple of wealthy followers were left to take his body down, carry it outside the city, and entomb it.

If you've ever felt despair at the pit of your stomach, then you know what Peter felt. When he *did* go out, he would walk in a kind of daze, utterly disoriented, shattered, the center of his world now a black hole, an empty void.

How could the Messiah, the heir of David's throne, be executed? It was impossible — yet it had happened, and oh so swiftly!

Peter slept fitfully Saturday night and when his eyes opened Sunday morning, the doom of death was heavy upon him. He pulled his cloak over his eyes, hoping he could fall back to sleep, but knowing he wouldn't. All of a sudden someone was banging on the door. Soldiers! Peter got up with a start. How can I escape? Then he heard Mary Magdalene's voice, and his terror fell back into depression. Mary was breathless, troubled, her face stained with tears.

Peter grumbled, "Why did you have to wake me so early?"

Mary blurted out: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb!"

Peter pulled his fellow-disciple John to his feet, slammed the door behind them, and began to run through the narrow streets, out the city gate, and then on to the tomb. The great stone that had sealed

the tomb stood open. As they entered, the sepulcher was empty, except for some folded graveclothes. The body was gone.

Folded? That was strange. Folded graveclothes but no body. Hardly what you'd expect from grave robbers.

John seemed convinced by the graveclothes that somehow Jesus had been resurrected or something, but Peter wasn't so sure. How could he believe that after so much had happened? He walked slowly back towards the city pondering, thinking, wanting to believe, but afraid to hope.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared. Peter, the so-called "rock," had publically betrayed him. He had shouted, "I don't know the man!" He was so unworthy. And yet here was Jesus before him. Peter fell to his knees and wept for joy.

Peter never said much to the others about this meeting — what had been said, what had transpired. But after that you'd sometimes see Peter deep in thought, pensive. Then he would nod his head and traces of a smile would begin to transform his face into one written with thankfulness and joy and peace.

Peter had been whipsawed from his pit of despair and pulled by the Master into peace. Life had changed for the good. And since then many have found this same peace, this same smile of wonder at Jesus' amazing grace. Maybe you too. Jesus had risen — and Peter never doubted him again.

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Recipe of the Month

Rhubarb Custard Bars



Ingredients

Crust

2 cups flour

¼ cup flour

1 cup cold butter

Filling

2 cups sugar

7 TB flour

1 cup heavy whipping cream

3 large eggs, beaten

5 cups finely chopped rhubarb

Topping

6 ozs cream cheese, softened

½ cup sugar

1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped

½ tsp vanilla extract

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Crust

- In a bowl, combine the flour and sugar; cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
- Press into a greased 13x9-in. baking pan.
- Bake for 10 minutes.

Filling

- As crust cooks, combine sugar & flour in a bowl.
- Whisk in cream and eggs.
- Mix in rhubarb and pour over crust.
- Bake at 350.

Topping

- .Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth.
- Fold in whipped cream.
- Spread evenly over top.
- Cover and chill before serving.
- Cut into squares.

Store in the refrigerator.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion first Sunday of the Month

Bible Study

No Bible Study in April

Lenten Supper & Service 5:00 p.m. April 3, April 10

Palm Sunday Ham Dinner 11 – 1, Sunday April 14

Maundy Thursday Service 5:00 p.m. April 18

Concordia Ladies

1 p.m., Tuesday, April 9

Veteran Coffee Hour

10 a.m., Wednesday, April 10

ROMEOS

7:30 a.m., Friday, April 26

Krumkaker Making

Follows worship, April 28

Birthdays

April 10 Regina Hanson

April 14 Lee Eidem

April 16 Kjell Hoelstad

Anniversaries

April 3 Gordon & Sue Kassenborg

April 10 Raymond & JoLyn Johnson

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