

# Concordia News – Large Print

## January 2020

Volume 15      A newsletter for members, family, and friends of Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association      Number 1



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"Life as struggle" comes to mind as an appropriate theme given the terrible weather our area has endured this spring, summer, this fall and, so far, this winter. "Life as struggle" is not a new theme. An entire philosophy was based on this theme in ancient Greece. The stoics understood that life was a struggle and the goal of life was through human effort (character) to rise above it until death ended this life for eternity.

Hopefully none of us have had our personal theologies influenced by the horrible the insurance industry moniker for natural disasters "an act of God". God is not a capricious or vindictive deity that rides around the heavenly realm armed with Zeus-like lightening bolts hurling them randomly nor with precision at earth. While the Old Testament is replete with references of God as a God of justice and even of wrath, it tempers the image of a righteous/perfect/removed God with images of God as a protecting shepherd and even as a loving father. Nonetheless, every encounter between humans and the divine (mostly God's messengers, is angels) is received with utter terror. If all we have is the Old Testament Jehovah as our God, it would be easy to conclude that this deity's "love" for us would certainly be overridden by the constraints of his justice, his righteousness and this could only lead to divine wrath as this deity looks upon the ongoing sinfulness and rebellion against his rule in the lives of all humans. Besides, this deity with few exceptions never

shows up, He sends his ambassadors. If all we had was the Old Testament God it would be reasonable to agree with insurance industry theology, that behind every terrible event stands a punishing and wrathful deity. If God is a loving parent he has a heavy hand that rules the household and his children with an iron hand. If God is loving he loves at a distance. He is aloof. He has no capacity for empathy as he is totally divine and we and his creation are the opposite. The Old Testament God has "no flesh in the game", so to speak.

The message of Advent, Christmas and now Epiphany (the season of the reveling of who the Divine really is) speak of a God incarnate (literally meaning in-fleshed). Advent speaks of his coming drawing upon Old Testament prophecies of God's doing a new thing on behalf of humanity. Christmas reveals the radical nature of that new thing with God becoming human, all human. Epiphany helps us understand who that incarnate God really is and who he can be in relationship to you and me.

The take home for us is that God has experienced first hand the fullness of our humanity at its weakest point: being born a helpless baby to a poor and publicly discredited teenage "adulteress". From the very beginning, even in the womb, God knows what it means to suffer what it means to be marginalized. In the incarnation God has demonstrated that in his son Jesus Christ, fully God yet fully man, he

now has "flesh in the game." This is the message of Epiphany. God is anything but aloof, removed, uncaring. He is God with us, Emmanuel. Should we have any doubts about the sincerity of God's intent the upcoming season of Lent should dispel any lingering preconceptions.

To come full circle, life is full of struggle. Our ancestors mostly looked at life as little other than struggle, yet they kept the faith that God was with them in the midst of those struggles and would see them through this life and shepherd them into a better life where there is no suffering, no illness, no pain, no death.

This process was begun in the Incarnation, this season of Epiphany it will be revealed again to us again. Please join us at Concordia as we celebrate this revealing together. May our in-fleshed God bless you with his presence in your struggles and in the joys he has in store for you in this life and in the next.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Bruce*

## Coffee and Cookie Servers



January 5	Germaine Gress	February 3	Sue Kassenborg
January 12	Clinton Babolian	February 10	Clinton Babolian
January 19	Carolyn Edwards	February 17	Sylvia Teigen
January 26	Irene Olson	February 24	Myron Hagene

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## Bible Study

Due to unpredictable winter weather, Bible Study times & locations will be announced at each Sunday's worship.



## Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, January 7

1:30 p.m.

Fryn' Pan

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## Join The Romeos!

*Retired Old Men Eating Out*

7:30 a.m., January 31

Fryn' Pan

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*Pastoral Care*

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact Pastor

Bruce at 218-329-2245.

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**Veteran's Coffee Hour**

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

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Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

*~Goran Persson*

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## Christmas “Untrimming”

On **Sunday January 26** we will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations following worship. After the work is done we will have coffee and fellowship. Bring any leftover Christmas goodies to share for the coffee.

Thank you to all who helped make Concordia look so beautiful for Christmas and then for helping to put the decorations away for Christmas next year! We could not do it without each one of you!

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## Annual Meetings

### February 2

A potluck will follow morning services. Volunteers are 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 Wes Tommerdahl by **January 20<sup>th</sup>**.

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

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## Open Cemetery Board Seats

There are two vacancies on the cemetery board. Consider volunteering! It isn't a time-consuming job, but it is an important one. You can find out about what's involved by speaking to any current board member.

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## Church Cancellations



**It's the season of ice, snow, and cold weather again.** Services will be cancelled when the wind chill exceeds minus 20 degrees or when NOAA (the National Weather Service) advises "No Travel." The congregation president and pastor will determine if other circumstances (low visibility, icy conditions) should result in cancellation. WDAY TV should broadcast the cancellation, but a few times they have not. When in doubt, do not hesitate to call Pastor Bruce the day of, at 218-329-2245. If you reach voice mail he may be talking to someone else, so please leave a message and he'll return your call as soon as he can.

**Stay warm! Stay safe!**

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# **Donations**

## **Concordia General Fund**

*In Memory of Sally Horpedahl*

Terry & Lorraine Anderson

## **Concordia Cemetery Association**

*In Memory of Glenn Kassenborg*

Kirby & Candace Kassenborg

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## **Decorating for Christmas**

### **Saturday, December 7`**

A weather delay brought Concordia members and friends together on Saturday, Dec. 7 for the annual church decorating and Advent program. The tree was decorated, and the signs of Christmas were spread throughout the church and narthex. Once decorating was complete, Sue, Kjell and Clinton led a thoughtful Advent program with lots of carols to sing.

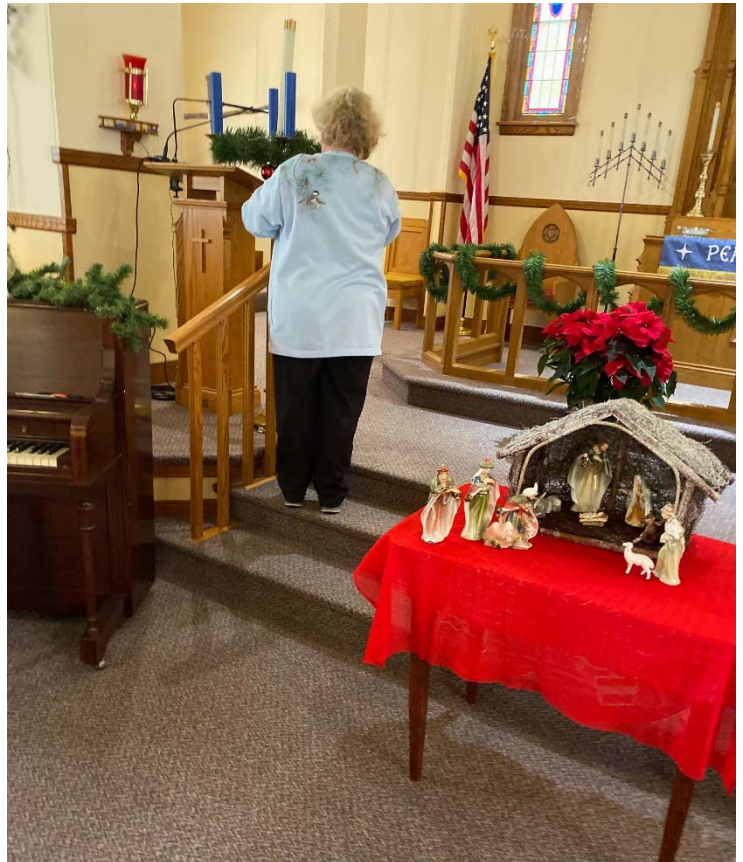
Kathy & Orpha provided the music *and* organized the festively decorated tables full of wonderful Christmas goodies, too.

As in past years, bags of candy were donated by Carolyn, Eddie and Colleen Edwards. Colleen created angels for everyone as well. We so appreciate their efforts to keep this tradition alive!

**Thanks to the Edwards, Kathy, Orpha, Kjell, Clinton, Sue and all** who participated, provided treats, decorated, and helped with setting up the basement and cleaning up after. Coming together in community is the best way to begin the Christmas season!



Those who found the almond in the *Riscreme* Were rewarded with a maripan pig!



# With Our Thanks



# Recipe of the Month

## *New Year's Brunch*



### Ingredients

1 lb. sausage	6 eggs
2 cups milk	8 slices of bread
Butter	1 tsp dried mustard
1 tsp salt	1 cup grated cheddar cheese

### Directions

- Brown sausage, drain well and set aside to cool
- Butter one side of each slice of bread
- Cover bottom of 9X13 pan with bread, buttered side down
- In a large bowl, beat eggs
- Mix together eggs, milk, sausage, mustard, salt and cheddar cheese
- Pour into pan over bread
- Refrigerate overnight
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Cook for 35-40 minutes
- Slice and serve



## **Moorhead Daily News**

**January 24, 1924**

**Page one**

### **JOHN A. JUVE**

#### **Former Moorhead Boy Passes Away in St. Paul Hospital**

The remains of John Andrew Juve, 13 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alden Juve, arrived in Moorhead this morning from St. Paul, where the boy passed away in a hospital. He had been receiving treatment for a complication of diseases but this failed to save him. The family resided on a farm northeast of Dilworth for some years, but during the past year they have resided in Fargo. No plans have yet been made for the funeral as yet. All arrangements are in charge of the Leo Johnson Furniture Company, undertaking department.

**January 25, 1924**

**Page one**

### **Juve Funeral**

#### **Remains of Moorhead Boy to be Interred at Concordia Cemetery**

The funeral of John Andrew Juve, 12 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Aldren Juve, who passed away Wednesday at a St. Paul hospital,

### Bits and Pieces

will be held Sunday Afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, in the Concordia Church on the Buffalo River northeast of the city. Rev. N. J. O. Wickre of Moorhead will officiate and interment will be in Concordia church cemetery.

**January 28, 1924**

**Page Three**

The funeral of John A. Juve, the 13 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alden Juve was held on Sunday afternoon from the Concordia Church on the Buffalo River. Rev. N. J. O. Wickre officiated and internment was in Concordia church cemetery.

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**January 20, 1940**

**Page Three**

**Meet At Espeland Home**

Only one member was absent Tuesday as the Morken Homemakers met at the home of Mrs. Ole Espeland. Mrs. Elmer Ostrem and Mrs. Otto Svenkeson were assisting hostesses. The lesson on Low Cost of Health was given by the leaders, Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Kragnes. A checkup meeting is being planned for February in the home of Severt Rasmussen. A potluck lunch will be served.

At my last physical, the doctor strongly encouraged me to get more exercise.

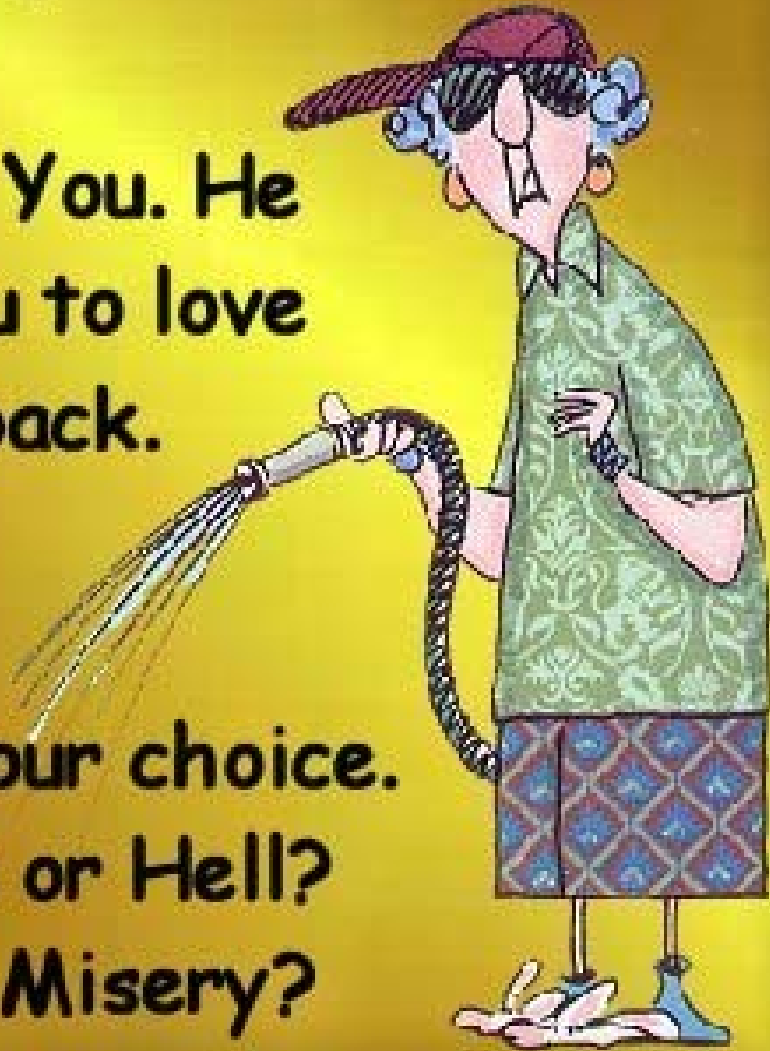
I decided to get a little dog and name him "Three Miles" ... that way I can tell the doctor that I walk three miles every day!



**God made you. Satan didn't.**

**He loves You. He  
wants you to love  
Him back.**

**But it's Your choice.  
Heaven or Hell?  
Joy or Misery?**



# Dates to Remember

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

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion first Sunday of the Month

### ***Bible Study***

Announced during Sunday Worship

### ***Concordia Ladies***

1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 7

### ***Veteran Coffee Hour***

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 8

### ***Christmas Untrimming***

Follows worship Jan.26

### ***ROMEOS***

7:30 a.m., Friday, January 31

### ***Birthdays***

January 6                      Germaine Gress

January 11                     Polly Hanson

January 30                     Irene Olson



**January 2020**

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