



Volume 15

Concordia News

October 2020



Number 10

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

Contents

Page

From Pastor Bruce1
 Announcements & Assignments3
 With Our Thanks4
 Bits and Pieces6
 Envelope Page7

Matthew 16:21-28

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must

never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

As you may recall, last Sunday the text, which immediately preceded the text above, was about Jesus asking the disciples who people said that he was the disciples listed off several responses, all of which were wrong. Peter weighs in by corrected identifying Jesus as the Christ the Son of the living God. Jesus clips Peter's wings a bit when he stated that it was God that inspired his response but then proceeded to tell Peter that he will build the church upon him and that the kingdom of Satan will not prevail against it. In today's text Jesus predicts his suffering, death and resurrection. Peter is mortified. He could not make sense of why Jesus would want to throw away his future and the future of the organization which Jesus had just done saying Peter would lead. Of course if Peter would have had his way, Jesus would die a normal death at a normal age and neither God's kingdom or the church would have gotten a foothold on earth, hence Jesus seemingly harsh but accurate assessment that Peter was playing into Satan's hand. That if Jesus were to have accepted Peter's very harsh correction (about not taking up his cross) that God's kingdom would have decreased and Satan's would have increased. How is it that Peter who had risen so high could fall so low? I pass the very well presented message below for your consideration from professor Audrey West:

Security. Influence. Power. It is hard to resist their glorious lure. Perhaps that is Peter's challenge. He cannot help thinking that his close association with the Messiah will right all that is wrong about the world. But Jesus' announcement of the death-dealing events about to unfold in Jerusalem point to anything but the glory of security, influence, or power. What about the new church, and its authority to bind and to loose? What about withstanding the power of death ("the gates of Hades")? How can these things happen if God's own anointed one is to be tortured and executed?! No wonder Peter protests. "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you!" Jesus' response is swift and to the point: "Get behind me, Satan!"

Even in translation, the similarity to Jesus' command to the devil in the wilderness is clear: "Away with you, Satan!" (Matthew 4:10). Could it be that Peter's fervent wish, that God would prevent the horrors about to be visited upon Jesus, is something like the Tempter's offerings in the wilderness?

ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Satan dared Jesus to use his authority as Son of God for his own purposes instead of serving God's mission in the world. He tempted Jesus to set his mind on human things rather than on the things of God (see also Jesus' words to Peter, Matthew 16:23).

Jesus refused. Instead of hoarding bread made from stones to relieve his own empty stomach, he fed the hungry multitudes (Matthew 14:17-21; 15:33-38). Instead of claiming the privileges of Sonship to call on God's angels for his own benefit, he used his privilege to save, heal, and restore the lives of sick and marginalized persons. Instead of grasping after worldly varieties of power and authority, he opened the kingdom of the heavens to all who would follow after him in the way of righteousness.

Jesus refused to fall into the Tempter's trap and be diverted from God's mission. He showed the falsehood of the world's measures of authority. Along the way, he revealed what it looks like to serve in the ways of God.

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus' response to Peter echoes his wilderness repudiation of the devil. He refuses to avoid the journey that lies ahead, despite the fact that pointless suffering, caused by human sin and violence toward an innocent one, will appear to win (as he outlines in this first of three passion predictions).

It is necessary (Greek: *dei*) for him to go to Jerusalem. Why? Because, "on the third day he will be raised" (Matthew 16:21). God will put the lie to violence as ultimate power.

Getting behind the Messiah

Worth noting is a distinction between Jesus' commands to Satan and to Peter, one that is more obvious in Matthew's Greek than in most English translations.

In Matthew 4:10, Jesus expels Satan from his presence: Go [away]! (*hypage*). But to Peter, Jesus adds words that remind him of his place as a disciple: Go behind me (*hypage opiso mou*, emphasis added).

In Matthew, the words *opiso mou* ("behind me" or "after me") signify discipleship. The proper place for a disciple is behind Jesus, in the place of a follower. For example,

- Jesus' call to Simon Peter and the others: "Follow me (literally: Come *opiso mou*), and I will make you fish for people" (Matthew 4:19).
- In a discourse about discipleship: "[W]hoever does not take up the cross and follow me (literally: Come *opiso mou*) is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38).
- In this week's passage: "If any want to be my followers (to come *opiso mou*), let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Peter is the recipient of blessing (Matthew 16:17), but now, he is putting his own thoughts ahead of the ways of God, which makes him a stumbling block—a hindrance to Jesus' mission. Nevertheless (and this is significant), Jesus does not break relationship with him. Instead, he reminds Peter of the proper place for a follower.

There are some hopeful things in this account, however. While Jesus did not slather Peter with praise for coming up with the right answer in last week's gospel text, nor does he condemn people for the very wrong response in today's text. Also, nowhere else does Jesus mention Peter's gaff. Not only does he not lord it over Peter, he does not retract his promise that he would build the Church upon Peter. So while Peter was the Rock which would have caused Jesus entire mission to fail (a stumbling block or stone) Jesus maintains Peter's status as one who will be the rock, nonetheless, upon which Jesus would build this new movement (born out of his death and resurrection). So while Peter was not allowed to boast when he got it right he was not shamed or condemned when he got it desperately wrong. The coming Kingdom was not to be about human rightness but it was to be about divine grace, a very important lesson which Peter would learn and relearn as he fumbles and fails at following Jesus to the end, that is to Golgotha. This is also a good lesson to his modern disciples, you and me. While God wants us to get it right he knows our weakness and our sinfulness and stands ready to hold us accountable (confession) and, even more importantly, absolution, then brushing us off and with an encouraging word of grace sending us on our way again. Our right relationship with God is not up to us it is up to God. He has claimed Peter, you and me not only as disciples but more importantly, through our baptisms, as his children.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Bruce

Coffee and Cookie Servers

(when services resume)

October 4	Barb Grover
October 11	Regina Hanson
October 18	Delores Hagene
October 25	JoLyn Johnson
November 1	Polly Hanson
November 8	Becky Jegtvig
November 15	Kathy Krogstad
November 22	Irene Olson
November 29	Clinton Babolian



reasurer, and Mrs. A L Kassenborg, reporter. Miss Signe Lee and Mrs. A L Kassenborg will be assisting hostesses.

October 16, 1937

Page Three

“Nels Espeland, 64, Former Local Man, Dies in Ontario”

Lived in Moorhead in 1889, Had Made Home on St. Joseph Island Since 1916

Word has been received of the death of Nels Espeland, 64, former Moorhead man, at his home in St. Joseph’s Island, Ontario, Canada. He had been in ill health for a year.

Born in Telemarken, Norway, May 12, 1872, Espeland came to Moorhead in 1889 and lived in or near Moorhead for about 30 years. He left for St. Joseph’s Island in 1916 and made his home there every since. Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Charles Tostrud, Park Rapids, and Mrs. Alex Morken, Felton and a brother, Ole Espeland, Felton. His wife died two years ago. There were no children.

October 22, 1937

Page Three

“Morken”

Township News

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tostrud and Arthur, Mrs. Alex Morken and Ole Espeland left for St. Joseph’s Island, Ontario, Canada, to attend the funeral for their brother, Ole Espeland. Mr. Espeland lived in the vicinity over 30 years ago before he left for St. Joseph’s Island to make his home.

October 26, 1932

Page Five

“Kassenborg-Lee”

At the Lutheran parsonage, Glyndon, on Wednesday, October 19, at 5:00 p.m. Miss Florence Lillian Kassenborg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kassenborg, Concordia Church district, became the bride of Fred Gordon Lee, son of Mrs. Gunder O. Lee, also Concordia Church District, near Kragnes. The attendants were Miss Louise Kassenborg, sister of the bride, and Eugene Grover. The young couple will make their home on the Lee farm.



If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, or if you’d just like to talk through some concerns, contact Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.

October Birthdays



October 9	Diane Hatman
October 22	Lloyd Gunderson

October Anniversary



October 18	Paul & Karolynn Decker
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from the
Moorhead Daily News

October 2, 1939

Page Three

“Homemakers Organize”

The Moland Homemakers Group No. 1 was organized at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Clarence Jones on Wednesday. The first meeting of the group will be held at the home of Mrs. T J Skrei, near Moorhead, Friday at 10:30 a.m. The topic will be “Feeding the Family for Health.” Mrs. T J Skrei was chosen chairman of the club. Other officers are Mrs. Obert Skrei and Mrs. Lawrence Olson, leaders; Mrs. Albert Johnk and Mrs. Leon Hammett, alternates; Mrs. Delos Watson, secretary-

Riding the Circuit ...

... Then and Now

People in the Buffalo River Settlement were served by a missionary pastor (circuit rider) sponsored by the Conference of Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church beginning in 1872. As homesteaders arrived, these pastors would visit new pioneer communities 3-4 times a year not only to preach and offer communion, but also baptize babies who had been born since their last visit, verify that young people had received proper training in Luther's Small Catechism and provide formal confirmation, officiate at weddings, etc. The arrival of the circuit preacher was a time of celebration, with picnics and other festivities scheduled.

In November 1874, *Vor Frelser's* (Our Savior's) church was founded and affiliated with the Norwegian Synod. Most of the community chose to become members of this formal congregation. Others opted to continue with the circuit preacher.

Because of the controversy over predestination in the 1880's, the circuit rider continued his rounds until the resolution of the conflict and resulting merger in 1890 created the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. At that time it was decided the circuit would be discontinued.

Those who had been served by the missionary pastor spent some time searching for another pastor who might be willing to continue a quarterly schedule of services supported by freewill collection at each visit. Pastor Oefstedal, who served *Vor Frelser's* and Trinity in Moorhead refused and no other Lutheran pastor was willing to participate in such an arrangement. Methodists were willing to fill the breach, but that offer was eventually rejected.

Vor Frelser's suggested that individuals would be welcomed as new members of the congregation, but this was not acceptable to the other side. Negotiations between the Moland circuit group and *Vor Frelser's* were difficult and the outcome was not at all certain.

It was finally agreed that acknowledging the coming together of the the two religious communities on the Buffalo could best be

accomplished by changing the name of *Vor Frelser's* to Concordia. In ancient Rome, Concordia was the goddess of harmony and peace. It was agreed that it would be a fitting name for a congregation now united in peace and harmony. (Concordia would also be chosen as the name of the Lutheran college founded in Moorhead in 1891.)

That might have been the end of the circuit riding pastors on the Buffalo River, but in 2020 the arrival of COVID-19 re-introduced that practice – this time with a computer “click” and a car instead of a horse.

Each week we have received the Gospel lesson and Pastor Bruce's Sunday message via email. Once each month, Pastor Bruce and Kathy have traveled to the homes of congregation members from West Fargo to Felton offering communion and prayers, and welcome fellowship, as our members have sheltered in place in the face of this deadly but invisible invader.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month, and no congregation more appreciates their pastor than do the members of Concordia.



Pastor Bruce and Kathy have been a true blessing to us all, especially during these months of isolation.

Pastor Bruce and "special assistant" Kathy with Kjell Hoelstad during their monthly communion visit.

THANK YOU
Pastor Bruce
and Kathy!!

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Sylvia Teigen

David & Gloria Lee
Dalan & Diane Rasmussen
Gordon & Sue Kassenborg
Verna Kragnes & Richard Hall
Lloyd Gunderson

Donation

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bergland

We Need Your Support

With worship services and other activities suspended for over half the year, your donation to the general fund of any amount can help fill that gap.



Donations to the cemetery fund and newsletter are always greatly appreciated as well.

If you wish, your donation can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or event.

General Fund:

Make checks out to Concordia Lutheran Church and mail to:

Ray Johnson
7333 70 St N
Glyndon MN 56547

Concordia Newsletter

Make checks out to Concordia News and mail to:

Walter Teigen
915 4th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560

Concordia Cemetery Association:

Make checks out to the association and mail to:

Ray Johnson
7333 70 St N
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Recipe of the Month Pumpkin-Oat Pancakes



Ingredients

2 eggs	
1 1/2 cup oat flour	1 1/3 cup milk
3/4 cup pumpkin	2 TB sugar
2 tsp baking powder	
1 tsp cinnamon	1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ginger	1/4 tsp allspice
1/4 tsp clove	1/8 tsp nutmeg

Directions

- In a large bowl, whisk together dry ingredients
 - In a small bowl, whisk together eggs, milk and pumpkin
 - Pour wet ingredients into dry ingredients and whisk/mix thoroughly
 - Heat skillet over medium heat, brush with butter.
 - Pour about 1/4 cup of batter into pan.
 - Cook each pancake until bubbles form on top and edges look cooked, 2-3 minutes and flip.
 - Cook for about another minute. Other side should be golden brown.
- Serve with butter and syrup. Add berries if you like.

Halloween Jokes

What do mummies listen to on Halloween?
Wrap music.

How do you make a skeleton laugh?
You tickle his funny bone!

Why did the Cyclops give up teaching?
He only had one pupil!

Why didn't the skeleton go to see a scary movie?
He didn't have the guts.

Why are ghosts terrible liars?
You can see right through them!

What do you call two spiders that just got married?
Newly-webbed

Fall Word Search



ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
CHESTNUTS
CHILLY
CIDER
COBWEB
FALL
FOOTBALL
GOURD

HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HAY BALE
HAYRIDE
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Concordia News

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etc.**

Email: news@concordianews.org

Mail: Alene Sladky
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Laporte, Minnesota 56461

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