

THE Concordia Messenger



“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

February 2016



800-358-SOUP (7687)

souperbowl.org

Mark
your cal-
endars for
the 7th of
February

Football season is here, and so are we!

At Concordia any food items and monetary donations will be directed to the Salvation Army Samaritan Food Pantry in Greenwood. Look for cooking pots held by some of our congregations youth after each worship service on Feb. 7th to contribute. Thank you in advance for your past and present participation.

Deaconess update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I will reiterate my request to please excuse the brevity of my articles for the foreseeable future. I am enrolled in my Advanced Operations Course for the Army and although it is an online course, it is a year-long course and so far it is very demanding. Please keep me in your prayers during this time. I will still be trying to fulfill my duties by visiting and sending cards as I am able. Thank you for your understanding during this year. My first online meeting was 20 January and it is on the calendar to meet each Wednesday night for the next year. I believe there will be some weeks that I will not have the Wednesday requirement but may have additional other nights and weekends.

Our Women's Bible study will be meeting on the first and third Mondays each month. In

this way, I hope to stay connected with the Ladies and in the Word and still have time for my military requirement.

Thank you so much for your encouraging words and prayers. I really appreciate my church family. May our Lord continue to bless us all with blessings and trials to help us grow

In His Service

Erica Stephenson, Deaconess



Christian Living

Wedding Anniversaries Rick & Linda Snyder (44) Duane & Norma Krall (38) Mike & Kris Bierman (26).

February Birthdays: Rachel Sullivan, Daniel Bierman, John Bontrager Jr., John Zabel, Tony Morris, Jenna Yeater, Spencer Kearns, Jeff Reinke, Rachel Wall, Debbie Hassell, Diana Sullivan, Julia Borchers-Rice, Laura Hart, Alissa Emkes, Bob Stuckey, Barb Poulos, Steve Barrick, Mark Lawler, Mark Coppi, Dave Green, Allison Seale, Gloria Emery, Jill Herbst, Amanda Power, Genny Hartely, Alicia Lawler, Renee Stratton, Hank Wegener, Logan Kearns, Kathy Evans, Rachel Herbst, Dean Owen, Kevin Snyder, Herb Hoeltke.



From the Pastor

LENT IS and LENT IS NOT...

“*Pastor, what is Lent all about?*” Is it about fasting (I could stand to loose a few pounds!)? Is Lent about self-denial, walking around with a gloomy expression on your face? Is Lent just a dreary part of the church year, intended only to make Easter seem all the more enjoyable when it finally gets here?

Let’s begin by saying what **Lent is not** primarily about: First, Lent is not primarily about fasting. Depriving the body of nourishment has no spiritual value whatsoever, unless...unless it is done for the expressed reason to help the individual focus on prayer, the Word and their relationship with Jesus Christ. When fasting is done, Jesus told his disciples to make sure they did not parade it around for others to see like some conspicuous badge of honor. If you want to loose weight try “*Slim-fast*,” if you want to fast, don’t forget “*to pray*” and meditate on the Word.

Lent is not primarily about self-denial. Many people have the impression that Lent is about “giving up” something (chocolate, deserts, ice cream etc...). Some can tell you why they do it (and if done for the right reason this is very good), others carry on this tradition “*cause my folks did it*” without a clear understanding of its meaning.

Lent is not intended to depress you! This might be news to some of us. In fact, if properly observed, Lent can be powerfully exhilarating, spiritually speaking!

So, **what IS** Lent all about? Lent is primarily about one thing; ***focusing on the “passion” - the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and its meaning for our everyday lives.*** Lent is an opportunity for disciples to follow in footsteps of Jesus as He journeys to the cross and to allow that meditation to bring us closer to our Savior.

Lent is a call to repentance, which is not only sorrow over sin, but a real heart-felt desire to turn away from sin and back to God in faith and daily devotion.

Lent is about trying to comprehend the depth of Jesus’ love that drove Him to the cross for us and about admitting that it was the guilt of our sin that that had to be paid for on the cross.

Lent is about spiritual renewal which comes to us as we take seriously the high price that Jesus paid for our sin, coupled with a heart-felt desire to deepen our commitment to Christ by honoring His Word and will and by loving others as ourselves.

Lent is a time to remember that because Jesus suffered, He is connected to our suffering, pain and hurts through His cross. Because Christ has suffered, He understands our sufferings.

Lent is a time to marvel that the sinless Lamb of God suffered and died to make us right with the Father and to purchase a place for us in heaven!

Lent is a time to celebrate healing which has come by His stripes: Isaiah 53:5 “*He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*”

Lent is a season of blessing as it moves us into a more mature Christian faith and creates within us a deeper trust in God’s loving-kindness!

May this be what **Lent is** for you!

Pastor John Flannery

Director Christian Education

Concordians,

John 13:34-35 says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This conversation takes place during the Last Supper Jesus is having with His disciples. Often in February people talk about love and relationships because it's Valentine's Day. However, we often misunderstand what love truly is and how it should be defined.

In college I read Diana Garland's *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide*. She spends about 30 pages describing families and works through different ways to define family and how the church interacts with those definitions. On page 50, the conclusion of the section, she states, "For followers of Christ are not to be bound by the structures of legally recognized or biologically based relationships. Rather, family relationships are defined by relationship processes- loving one another, being faithful to the same Lord, and adopting one another as brothers and sisters in the household of faith."

Our world may continue to change the definition of families, marriage, and love; but God never does. He's already given us His Word and His Son. Still, we as Christians tend to not fully comprehend God's love or what it means to love others with the same love Christ has for us. Does loving others mean accepting others no matter what? Does it mean pointing out their sins and bad decisions? Does it mean being there for someone? What does it mean?

God's love is greater than we'll know. Romans 5:7-10, "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person- though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." Without any merit or worthiness in us, Christ died for us because He loves us. That's a lot of love to try and live up too. Thankfully, Christ doesn't demand that love from us. We are free to respond to Christ's love because of what He did for us. Will we still make mistakes and need forgiveness as we try and figure out how to love others like Christ loves them? Yes, that's why Christ forgives us.

What does all of this have to do with family?

All believers are members of one family, a family that transcends locations, denominations, and time. All believers are members of God's family and every member is an important part of that family. This means you.

Don't push or shy away from church services, Bible Studies, or events because you don't fit the traditional definition of family. If you are single, you are important to Christ's family and have much insight and love to offer. If you are an empty nester, you are still important to our church family. If you are a couple, you are important to God's family. No matter who you are or what your family status is, you are important to God's family. Continue to build relationships with members of God's family. This February, how has Christ enabled you to respond to the great love He has shown you?

*In Christ, Sarah Shadday, DCE
(Director of Christian Education)*



Lenten Dinners February 10

The LWCC will once again be serving the supper between services on Ash Wednesday. Since this is usually the best attended supper, we appreciate any help that ladies of the congregation can give. Please contact Ruth Everson if you are willing to donate some food for this occasion.

Quilting - Weather permitting we will begin again February 20, 2016.



Spring Social !

Please mark April 3 on your calendar for the Annual Spring Social. This year we have engaged Katie Stamm, Miss America in 2009, to be our featured speaker. She is the only Miss America from Indiana and although I don't have proof, I suspect she is the only Lutheran to achieve this honor. She was born and raised in Seymour, IN and is a member of a strong Christian family. She will speak to us about some of her experiences as Miss America and also sing some songs for us. Tickets will be on sale for \$5.00. Look for more details as the time draws near.

Delegates to the 2015 Des Moines Convention approved this grant

Grant provides housing & services

Over 25 years ago Rev. Edward DeWitt and his wife, Sheryl, dreamed of opening a maternity home for women who chose life for their unborn babies but who lacked the resources to live independent, healthy lives. Redeeming Life Maternity Home (RLMH) became a reality in 2013, started by Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Since that time the Sanford, Florida crisis pregnancy ministry has served as a home to 15 women and referred some 60 more to other service agencies. Four women currently live at the home, including three mothers with infants.

At RLMH faith, family, and education are upheld as keys to living a healthy, hope-filled life. Residents live together as family, learning to support and accept one another. Whether a resident chooses to parent or to lovingly place her child for adoption, she works toward finishing her education and/or obtaining the job skills necessary for success. Spiritual growth is fostered through daily prayer and devotions, worship and Bible study, and active involvement with the congregation.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) \$100,000 grant will support the home's programs for educational and vocational learning, instruction in financial management, parenting skills, and life skills. Individual, group and specialized counseling is also available. What a blessing it is for the LWML to be able to support this or-

ganization, upholding the value of human life and sharing the message of Christ's salvation.

Duplex prior to renovation





After renovation



Family Meal

Don't forget to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars before the March 31, 2016 deadline.

In 2015, Thrivent members contributed \$1,892 to Concordia using their Choice Dollars. There are literally hundreds and even thousands of non-profits that you can designate with your Choice Dollars. Thank you for designating Concordia! Be sure to make a choice, if you haven't already, before March 31 or Thrivent will make the choice for you. Another option is to choose Concordia Lutheran Preschool.

Please contact a Customer Care Professional from the Member Connection Center at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt or email mail@thrivent.com to get answers for any questions you may have.

Beginning in January 2016, Choice Dollars directed to Concordia are designated for Concordia Cares, a special fund to help community and church members facing a financial hardship.

What are you passionate about?

Is it a Crisis Pregnancy Center, a rescue center, or a family in need? Gather a few people to form a team and apply at Thrivent.com/ActionTeam. When approved you'll get \$250 in seed money to cover promotional and material costs. If you know of someone who has a special passion and isn't a Thrivent member, apply and be part of their team. Without a doubt, it's a win-win for everyone. Please contact Ruth Everson at 535-1617 or rudysfirst@aol.com for additional information if needed. We're hoping every Thrivent member will sponsor at least one ActionTeam in 2016.

Your New Money Mindset, a recent publication coauthored by Brad Hewitt, CEO of Thrivent Financial, and James Moline, licensed psychologist helps

readers examine their relationship with money from a faith perspective. Thrivent members can get the book at a discount price of just \$5 per book!

Your New Money Mindset offers:

- A free online **New Money Mindset Assessment**™ to help you examine your fundamental attitudes about money and generosity.
- A free study guide with questions to use on your own or with a small group.
- Faith-based action steps to encourage you on your journey to a transformed relationship with money.

In the next few weeks a copy of the book will be placed in our church library where you may borrow it. To order a personal copy visit this website: newmon-eymindset.com and click on **Order Now**. Use redemption code **Discount501** to receive the discount. (Retail value is \$15.99.)



To **Gabriele Stephenson & Shawn Reed** who were married on December 19, 2015, at Concordia by Rev. John Flamme. God's blessings on their new life together as husband and wife.



We pray the peace of Christ and the hope of the resurrection to:

Josh & Sarah Jacob and family at the death of their son **Daniel James Jacob**, age 6 months, on 1/26/16. (68 E Worthsville Rd,

Greenwood IN 46143)

Treasurer's Report

December 2015

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance Dec 31, 2015
Anniversaries & Birthday	3,955.70
Board of Youth— (Trip)	8,971.78
Building Fund	16,882.64
Capital Improvements	1,874.84
Concordia Cares	602.55
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	7,404.03
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	39,691.54
<i>Interest earned</i>	<i>21.06</i>

12/31/15 Balance for Special Funds held in checking account	
* Child Care Ministry	2,049.82
* Concordia Cares	3,228.49
* Debt Reduction	11,337.25
* Evangelism Outreach	400.00
* Fellowship 15	741.77
* Praise Band Sound System	318.08
* Tables	582.64
* Technical Committee	1,500.00
* 7th & 8th Grade Youth	36.50
*Total Allocated Funds	20,194.55

Church checking account balance December 2015	
Beginning	10,413.68
Deposits	37,230.56
Payments	40,128.87
Ending balance	7,515.37

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Dec 2014	Dec 2015
Missions— District Synod	500.00	2,500.00
Lutheran High School	1,500.00	3,000.00
Lutheran Multicultural Mission	187.50	375.00
Total Support	2,187.50	5,875.00

Expenses Boards	Dec 2014	Dec 2015
Pastoral Care	8,687.19	8,834.70
Congregational Worship	1,714.08	1,244.92
Missions and Outreach	3,032.50	2,956.14
Christian Education	7,768.92	7,280.59
Stewardship	-0-	-0-
Operations	10,898.36	11,258.26
Small Group Ministries	110.26	49.46
Christian Living	-0-	129.60
Unified Budget Total	32,211.31	31,753.67
Non-boards		
Non budget payments	4,465.00	-0-
Reimbursement Expenses **	855.50	8,375.20
Total Non-Budget Payments	5,320.50	8,375.20
Total payments	37,531.81	40,128.87

** Reimbursement Expenses: Concordia Lutheran Preschool \$659.14, Concordia Youth Group \$1,874, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (Debt Reduction) \$4,123.50, L.W.C.C. \$168, Pack Away Hunger \$1,014.00, Pay Pal Movie Mars \$11.61, Pre-school Federal Taxes \$346.42, Pre-school Indiana Taxes \$88.53, Wheat Ridge Ministries \$90.

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.



As of Dec 31 the balance on our Mortgage was \$ 75,265.11. (regular monthly payment)

Worship	2015	2016	Tithes
12/24/15	201	254	1,815.00
12/25/16	54	35	495.00
12/27/15	122	116	6,256.84
12/31/15	38	31	1,352.00
1/3/16 s	141	113	5,240.55
1/10/16 s	151	75	2,611.25
1/17/16 s	161	110	6,447.61
1/24/16 s	160	144	4,170.80

Our Spiritual Response in Worship, Bible Study and Giving to our Lord

	SS	HS	ADULT
12/27/15	9		11
1/3/16	15	8	33
1/10/16	15		18
1/17/16	18	5	29
1/24/16	18		24

Articles for the Messenger are due by the 15th of the month and will be edited for content and space limitations. Artwork is used by permission through a subscription to *Newsletter Newsletter*, Communication Resources, Box 2625, N. Canton, OH 44720. If sending submissions to the newsletter via email, please be sure to include *NEWSLETTER* in the subject line.

Income Description	Dec 2014 4 Sundays	Dec 2015 4 Sundays
Unified Budget	32,377.96	30,876.78
Memorials (Non-designated)	100.00	50.00
Memorials (Designated)	-0-	-0-
Mortgage Reduction	986.00	3,103.00
Designated Gifts *	5,939.72	2,582.46
Reimbursements & Refunds **	538.06	600.74
Rents & Wedding Fees	165.00	-0-
Sunday School	12.90	17.58
TOTAL INCOME	40,119.64	37,230.56
<i>Average per/week Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 8,094.49</i>	<i>\$ 7,719.20</i>
<i>Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 6,630.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,630.00</i>

* Anniversaries/ Birthday blessings \$88, Advent dinner for youth group \$197, Altar Flowers \$183.50, Altar flowers special \$18.50, Back Hoe Rental \$415.45, Concordia Cares \$210, Daily Journal \$100, Fellowship \$25.75, Lenten dinner \$50, LWCC \$17, National Youth Gathering \$140, Pack Away Hunger \$305, Paper Recycling (for Pre-school) \$3.26, Pennies from Heaven \$3, Pre-school \$50, Silent Auction (for pack away hunger) \$84, VBS \$100, Wheat Ridge Ministries \$10, Youth \$60, Youth Baby sitting \$240, Youth gift wrapping \$282.

** Pre-school taxes for State & Federal tax received from pre-school \$ 434.95, Purchase of books \$ 25.02, Reimbursement of church credit card \$ 140.77.

2015 Birthday / Anniversary Blessings

6/28 Gerald Nolker, Birthday

7/5 Emkes, Birthdays & Anniversary

10/11 Caruana, Anniversary

12/13 John Zabel, Birthday

The Concordia Messenger

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Website: <http://www.concordia-lcms.com>

Web Servant: James Mayo



Sunday Worship Services

8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes

9:15 A.M.



Pastor

Rev. John A. Flamme (887.9580)

Staff

Sarah Shadday—*Director Christian Education*

Erica Stephenson - *Deaconess*

Jill Scifres, Susan Bass—*Preschool Co-Directors*

Becky Lanning— *Office Manager*

Carol Monroe— *Administrative Assistant*

President

Dick Brooks

President-Elect

John Bontrager

Vice President

Mike Finger

Recording Secretary

Beverly Stephens

Treasurer

John Bertsch

Board for Christian Education

Tammy Owen

Board for Christian Living

Genny Hartley

Board for Congregational Worship

Sue Ranbarger

Board for Missions & Outreach

open

Board for Operations

Herb Hoeltke

Board for Pastoral Care

Mike Emkes

Board for Small Group Ministries

Deb Brooks & Lynda Martin

Board for Stewardship

Phil Caruana

Rose Mihu, Financial Secretary

THE Concordia Messenger

February 2016

Lutheran Hour Ministries Radio Schedule

The Lutheran Hour—Sundays

WIRE (91.1 FM) 7:30 AM

WCBK (102.3 FM) 7:00 AM

WMCB (1540 AM) 8:00 AM

WLLW (700 AM) 7:00 AM

2/7 It's Best to Be with Jesus

2/14 Call on Him

2/21 Body and Soul Salvation

2/28 Follow Him

**Lutheran Hour is now broadcast on
American Forces Network (AFN).**

Worship for Shut-Ins—Sundays

W/HMB (TV 40) 10:00 AM

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Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool
305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142