

THE Concordia Messenger



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

March 2016

Christian Living

Wedding Anniversaries Mike & Nancy Sawa (44), David & Erica Stephenson (22), Mike & Anne Finger (38), Mark & Julia Coppi (13), Ed & Beverly Stephens (31)

March Birthdays: Rick Ebb, Cindy Heine, Lucas Crouch, Fred Foster, Tyler Green, Allen Neal Jr., Samuel Hartley, Emma Mayo, John Bertsch, Katie Hart, Larry Guthrie, Isaac Frey, Grace Green, Philip Cannon, Ruth Everson, April Quinn, Anne Guthrie, Sarah Jacob, Jason Liechty, Dave Wilson, Sarah Shadday, Marta Fonth, Judy Heine, Scott Ronczka, Jim Hayes, Sarah Marot, Michael Anderson, Thomas Brooks, Ben Owen, Dona Wischmeier, Thomas Cummings, Kathryn Power, Charles Stinger, Jordan Boling, Laurie Brown, Jennifer Warren, Helen Judd, Janet Knobloch.

Team Concordia will again be participating in the annual MS Walk at Military Park, Indianapolis, on Saturday, April 23, 2016, in memory of Debbie Liechty. We would encourage anyone to join as a team member who is willing to donate and if interested walk with us.

We urge all of Team Concordia to begin collecting donations and register prior to the event online at www.walkms.org/signup. If you are unable to walk, please support us with your donations. You can also make donations online or giving them to one of the Team Concordia Captains. No amount is too small!

We plan to meet at church at 8:00 AM to car-pool to the walk location. For more information or questions, contact Team Captains,

Linda Snyder, 881-4172, bears
424@aol.com or Jason Liechty, 885-0865, jpliechty@comcast.net.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR A
WORLD FREE OF MS !!

Sunday School

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS
AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE! Philip-
pians 4:4

This is one of the verses that our Sunday school students have learned in song during opening in the past couple of months. We also discovered that many of the songs that we already know are based on scripture, too. Here is a matching game for you. Titles of songs are listed along with scripture references. See how many you can match correctly before you look them up to check if you are right!

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| You Are Holy | Philippians 2:8-11 |
| Jesus, Name Above | |
| All Names | Matt. 5:14-15 |
| Praise Him, Praise Him | Isaiah 48:18 |
| This Little Gospel | |
| Light of Mine | Psalms 113:3 |
| There Were 12 Disciples | Isaiah 9:6 |
| Peace Like a River | Matt. 10:2-4 |

Thank-you to our 7th and 8th grade class for serving as our Sunday School Servants.

They got their letters out to our homebound members just in time for Valentine's Day. Our next group of Sunday School Servants will be our preschool class. We appreciate hearing from you, too. Be sure that you let us know any prayer requests that you have! Keep serving God gladly!



From the Pastor

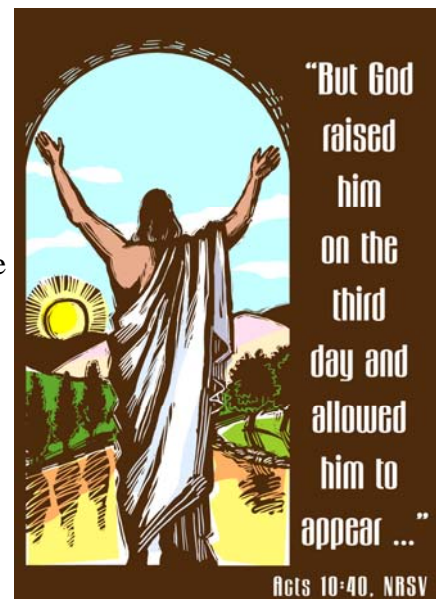
EASTER: THE VICTORY OF THE RESURRECTION!

Several weeks ago I was watching the “History Channel” on television and I saw a program that caught my attention. It was all about V-E Day - V-J Day. I had no idea what the narrator was talking about so, in curiosity, I continued listening. Those of you, who lived through World War II, already know what it means! What I discovered is that V-E Day stands for “*Victory over Europe Day*” and V-J Day stands for “*Victory over Japan Day*”. Although technically the war was already won over both of those enemies, it was not official until those countries signed papers of “unconditional surrender” to the Allies. The most remarkable thing to watch was the joy, celebration and sense of excitement Americans had when they knew their victory was complete. Their enemies were defeated, victory was theirs and all was right in the world!

The women at the tomb must have also felt the awesome joy and VICTORY of the Resurrection of Christ on that first Easter morning when they heard the Good News from the angel: “**He is not here, He is risen!**” Over the course of more than 2000 years, we too still experience the joy and meaning of the “Resurrection Victory” of Christ our Lord. His Resurrection Victory is three-fold: 1. The Victory of Life, 2. The Victory in Resurrection, and 3. The Victory of Heaven.

1. **The Victory of Life.** When Jesus rose from the dead and showed himself to his disciples, the first message he was communicating to his followers was I am not dead, I am ALIVE! The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that our Lord Jesus is Alive and active and powerfully at work in our lives today. By God’s grace through faith we have a living relationship with Jesus Christ. If you are in a loving relationship with someone, you want to spend time with them, get to know them better and spend time communicating with them. Therefore, being in this living relationship with the risen Savior means coming before God’s throne in prayer every day. It also means faithful and regular worship in God’s house where God can bless our faith through Preaching, the Word and the Sacraments. Our Living Lord reminds us that He is praying and interceding for us every day before the Father’s throne. The book of Hebrews (7:21) puts it this way: “*He [Christ] is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since he ever LIVES to make intercession for them.*”

2. **The Victory in Resurrection.** The Good News is that since Jesus was the “first-fruits” from the dead, we too will be resurrected from the dead and given a glorified, perfect, and eternal body. It will be a transformed body that will be forever joined to our soul. In heaven our bodies will be free from the ravages of sin: disease, disability, aging, and death. With perfect bodies and forgiven souls, we will eternally celebrate the JOY of being God’s redeemed people. John 11:25-26: “*Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*” Our Baptism and faith connects us to the death and victorious resurrection of Christ, Romans 6:3-5 “*We were buried with Him through*



baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection."

3. The Eternal Victory in Heaven. Because our living Lord was raised from the dead, we have a place, a home, a residence already prepared and paid for by the blood of Christ. We will be part of an eternal celebration of the grace of God in Christ with believers from every era, nation, tribe and language. Heaven is going to be the most beautiful adventure the human heart has ever known. There we will be one with our God, enjoying His paradise, basking in His divine beauty and splendor. There we will enjoy the perfect fellowship of all the saints and angels forever and ever. John 14:2-3: *"In my Father's house are many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you...I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* Revelation 7:9-10: *"...Before me there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the lamb. They were wearing white robes...and they cried out in a loud voice "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb."*

Through the death and resurrection of our Savior, we are OWNERS of EASTER VICTORY! As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:57, *"Thanks be to God, who gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Amen! Happy Easter Concordia!

Pastor John Flannery

Director Christian Education

Concordians,

Pastor's Lenten series focuses on the miracles of Lent. There are many miracles surrounding Jesus' death, but there is one I feel is ignored. I'm sure I learned about it in school and I'm sure I heard it spoken many times in church, but it wasn't until I was in college that I realized what it was saying.

Matthew 27:52-53 says, "The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many." I still can't decide if this would be amazing or terrifying! I had to read the People's Bible Commentary on Matthew, published by CPH to get more information.



The commentary asks: Who are these people? Did they die recently? Was it their original or glorified body like they have in heaven? If so, did God have to bring them into heaven like he did with Enoch and Elijah? What did the people do until Jesus was resurrected? If we look closely it says they were raised when Jesus died but didn't go to the holy city, Jerusalem, until AFTER Jesus was raised.

The language I find beautiful in the Bible is "the saints who had fallen asleep." It's found multiple times in the New Testament. Sometimes, it means someone fell asleep like the disciples (Matthew 26:36-46) or Eutychus who fell asleep by a window sill while Paul was speaking (Acts 20:7-12). Other times, it means someone died like in Matthew 27:52-53 verses or Acts 7:54-50 (the stoning of Stephen).

What does this mean? Don't fall asleep during the sermon! Just

kidding. Only IF you're sitting by a window sill, don't fall asleep during a sermon. . . No, the point is this language accurately portrays what happens when a Christian dies. We fall asleep and wake up in the beautiful city described in Revelation 21 where the Light of the world is the only light needed, the Lamb is the only church needed, and where there is no more death, mourning, or pain. Our God given faith, continually sustained by the Holy Spirit, that Jesus Christ died for our sins and the sins of the whole world to reconcile us to the Perfect Father, saves us. Nothing we do can earn us this life, but everything Christ did earned it for us.

One terrible and amazing day, graves may break open again. If so, we will all be alive to see and celebrate on one side of heaven or another. Christ defeated sin, death, and the power of the devil to save you and me. We celebrate the sacrifice He made and that the sacrifice was accepted by the Father on Easter Sunday, March 27th this year. The crazy thing is, we celebrate this Gospel message every Sunday. Everyone is always welcome to celebrate it with us. It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, or if you think you're beyond saving. No one is beyond God's saving grace. Christ loves all people and Christ defeated Satan and is quick to forgive those who repent. Christ literally went to hell for YOU (1 Peter 3:18-20). That's where Christ went when He died for us. The Father resurrected Him literally from hell, the furthest place from himself, the place God shouldn't be able to go; but He did, for us. Jesus Christ, both God and man went to hell for you and me because of our sin. Now that sin is forgiven for Christ's sake and because of His great love for us. Nothing in creation can separate you from God.

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



Quilting - Weather permitting we will begin again March 19, 2016.



SPRING SOCIAL

The LWCC/LWML will once again host the Spring Social on April 3 at 5:30 PM. A light supper will be served. This year we are honored to have Katie Stam, Miss America -

2009, as our featured speaker and entertainer. She will share experiences she had while serving as Miss America and will also sing some songs, since singing was her talent for the contest. During her year of service, Katie worked extensively with Children's Miracle Network as the National Goodwill Ambassador, visiting dozens of children's hospitals across the country, promoting the organization and raising millions of dollars. She also promoted Community and Involvement, spreading her message of volunteerism to hundreds of thousands. She also went to Germany to visit our Armed Forces and spent time honoring our servicemen and women in uniform. Katie was the first Miss Indiana to achieve the honor of being Miss America. She was raised in Seymour, IN in a strong Lutheran family. Her mother taught in a Lutheran Elementary school. She is an excellent role model for our youth, proving that you can achieve success without compromising one's faith. So we encourage all women to attend this event and bring your daughters and granddaughters. Feel free to invite friends and relatives who are not mem-

bers of Concordia as well. The price of the tickets is only \$5. Where else can you get a meal and entertainment for such a reasonable price? Tickets will go on sale beginning the first Sunday in March.

\$75,000 grant approved at the 2015 Des Moines convention

LWML Grant Brings Hope & Healing to the Navajo People

The Navajo Nation is the largest native people group in the United States. Over the years, the Rocky Mountain District LWML and LWML have reached out to the Navajo people. In 1969 a parsonage and guest house were built for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico. In 1979 an LWML Mission Grant funded the construction of an educational wing. The community was growing, and under the leadership of a young pastor, the future looked bright. Eight years ago the pastor retired leaving no one to serve the worshipers who remained. Lack of employment opportunities and behaviors that often accompany poverty began to dim the light of hope. In 2013 however, Tim Norton, a trained DCE and former LCMS missionary to Africa, was called as a missionary-at-large to the Navajo people.

In partnership with Lutheran Indian Ministries, Norton is working to establish after school enrichment programs for children, Boys/Girls Clubs, youth camps, a men's Bible group, and a support group for abused women. Mentoring and training Navajo people for lay-leadership opportunities is another vital part of this program. In 2014, four Navajo men accompanied Norton to Alaska to work with the Athabaskan people of Minto, Alaska, to restore a cultural recovery camp. The Navajo people once migrated from that area, and Athabaskan and Navajo are both from the Diné people group. This reconnection and celebration of a common heritage, and the op-

portunity to share the Gospel, will offer mutual long term benefits.

It is with hopeful and thankful hearts that the LWML reaches out to our Navajo brothers and sisters. May our mite offerings truly help to bring hope and healing to the Navajo people.



Pastor Tim, Heidi, Philip & Leslie Norton



Pastor Tim, Jeremiah & Lorianne



Making Frybread on an open fire

Treasurer's Report

January 2016

| Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts | LCEF Balance Jan 31, 2016 |
|---|---------------------------|
| Anniversaries & Birthday | 3,957.66 |
| Board of Youth— (Trip) | 8,976.22 |
| Building Fund | 16,891.00 |
| Capital Improvements | 1,875.77 |
| Concordia Cares | 22.81 |
| Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening | 7,407.70 |
| Total in LCEF Steward Accounts | 39,131.16 |
| <i>Interest earned</i> | <i>19.62</i> |

| 1/31/16 Balance for Special Funds held in checking account | |
|--|------------------|
| * Child Care Ministry | 2,049.82 |
| *Concordia Cares | 3,455.06 |
| * Debt Reduction | 10,202.25 |
| * Evangelism Outreach | 400.00 |
| *Fellowship 15 | 773.02 |
| *Praise Band Sound System | 318.08 |
| *Tables | 582.64 |
| *Technical Committee | 1,500.00 |
| *7th & 8th Grade Youth | 36.50 |
| *Total Allocated Funds | 19,317.37 |

| Church checking account balance January 2016 | |
|--|-----------|
| Beginning | 7,515.37 |
| Deposits | 31,107.93 |
| Payments | 30,697.85 |
| Ending balance | 7,925.45 |

| Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses | Jan 2015 | Jan 2016 |
|--|-----------------|----------|
| Missions— District Synod | 500.00 | 0 |
| Lutheran High School | 750.00 | 0 |
| Lutheran Multicultural Mission | 187.50 | 0 |
| Total Support | 1,437.50 | 0 |

| Expenses Boards | Jan 2015 | Jan 2016 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Pastoral Care | 8,957.53 | 9,112.69 |
| Congregational Worship | 998.53 | 1,272.04 |
| Missions and Outreach | 725.50 | 188.00 |
| Christian Education | 6,957.14 | 4,508.83 |
| Stewardship | 84.58 | 129.83 |
| Operations | 10,666.99 | 9,475.01 |
| Small Group Ministries | 43.63 | 70.42 |
| Christian Living | -0- | -0- |
| Unified Budget Total | 28,433.90 | 24,756.82 |
| Non-boards | | |
| Non budget payments | 2,075.24 | 10.49 |
| Reimbursement Expenses ** | 480.91 | 5,930.54 |
| Total Non-Budget Payments | 2,556.15 | 5,941.03 |
| Total payments | 30,990.05 | 30,697.85 |

** January Reimbursement Expenses: Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Book Order \$31.93, Additional Mortgage Payment (Debt Reduction) \$2,000, Wedding L.W.C.C. \$140.77, Pre-school Federal Taxes \$384.20, Pre-school Indiana Taxes \$96.71, Concordia Dares (Special Family Assistance) \$3,276.93

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



As of Jan 31 the balance on our Mortgage was \$ 72,775.70

| Worship | 2015 | 2016 | Tithes |
|-----------|------|------|----------|
| 1/31/16s | 132 | 127 | 7,154.64 |
| 2/7/16s | 128 | 139 | 5,940.50 |
| 2/10/16aw | 160 | 87 | 2,035.75 |
| 2/14/16s | 172 | 122 | 4,843.40 |
| 2/17/16mw | n/a | 75 | 250.00 |
| 2/21/16s | 135 | 145 | 3,598.51 |

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

| | SS | HS | ADULT |
|---------|----|----|-------|
| 1/31/16 | 12 | | 32 |
| 2/7/16 | 18 | | 19 |
| 2/14/16 | 16 | | 21 |
| 2/21/16 | 19 | | 21 |

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 | Jan 2015 4 Sundays | Jan 2016 5 Sundays |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Unified Budget | 21,018.56 | 25,521.85 |
| Memorials (Non-designated) | -0- | -0- |
| Memorials (Designated) | 45.00 | -0- |
| Mortgage Reduction | 625.00 | 865.00 |
| Designated Gifts * | 1,815.32 | 4,220.50 |
| Reimbursements & Refunds ** | 719.76 | 500.58 |
| Rents & Wedding Fees | -0- | -0- |
| TOTAL INCOME | 24,223.64 | 31,107.93 |
| <i>Average per/week Unified Budget</i> | <i>\$ 5,254.64</i> | <i>\$ 5,104.37</i> |
| <i>Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget</i> | <i>\$ 6,630.00</i> | <i>\$ 6,583.00</i> |

* Anniversaries/ Birthday blessings \$2.00, Altar Flowers \$77.00, Concordia Cares \$3,503.50, Daily Journal \$50.00, Debt Reduction \$865.00, Fellowship 15 \$31.25, Initial Offering Envelop \$47.00, LWCC \$30.00, Pennies from Heaven \$5.00, Pre-school \$125.00, Wheat Ridge Ministries \$10.00, Youth \$40.00, Youth gift wrapping \$50.00, Youth Christmas Cards \$12.00, Youth Trivia Night \$174.00, Youth Apple Sales \$63.75.

** Pre-school taxes for State & Federal tax received from pre-school \$480.91, Purchase of books \$ 14.91, Paper Recycling Bin \$4.76, Offering by Receipt \$49.41

Board for Missions and Outreach

Would you like to help promote the many activities this board is involved with? Interested in Pack-Away- Hunger, Habitat for Humanity, Good Samaritan Pantry, or even VBS. After quite a few years, Diana Sullivan has stepped down from heading this board. The board needs interested volunteers, as well as a board Director. If this interests you, see Dick Brooks or talk to Diana. (NOW IS THE TIME!)

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

The Concordia Messenger

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Greenwood, IN 46142-3836

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E-mail: concordia@concordia-lcms.com

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

March 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

WLW (700 AM) 7:00 AM

3/6 Reconciled Reconcilers

3/13 It's Worth the Sacrifice

**3/20 Strive for What You
Already Have**

3/27 An Unbeliever's Sermon

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

Worship for Shut-Ins—Sundays

WHMB (TV 40) 10:00 AM

THANK YOU EVERYONE!



800-358-SOUP (7687)

souperbowl.org

\$162.51 was
donated by the
congregation on
February 7th
and the money
was given to the
Salvation Army

Samaritan Food pantry here in Greenwood.



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