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# † The Concordian †

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MARCH 2016



We at Concordia are called to be a family of forgiven and forgiving people, instruments of God's love.

Our purpose is to proclaim the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and to reach and teach those without and within the congregation, challenging each other to have Christ in our DAILY lives, to give more freely in response to His incredible love.

We will do all in the Lord's name, with prayer, praise and thanksgiving, involving as many people as possible - taking care to motivate and to try new ideas.

Our mission is to love as Christ loves.



The Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

## Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

When: Saturday, March 12th

Where: Kendall Concordia Lutheran  
Church

Time: 4-7pm

Adults \$12

12 and Under \$6

*Basket Auction*

# *A Letter From The Pastor*

Grace and Peace to You!

This has been a very different winter, right? The snow accumulation in February and into March is no surprise. And I think there might be even odds that we'll have snow on Easter Sunday (Easter in in March this year). But it has certainly been mild and a welcome change from the previous two years.

Another thing that is going differently this year is the Sunday School program. This spring we are using Legos to teach Bible stories. The kids gathered the first week and built their own minifigures, named them, and gave them back-stories.



Then we took the figures and built a scene where people were eating at a feast and new people came. They didn't look right – they were different, weird, even scary. God's command is to invite them and the wisdom came from one of the kids: "We need to build a bigger table!"

The next week we gathered and heard the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. The kids were able to see Lego Jesus atop the temple and how far he would have fallen (our temple has other traps too!). They met the Lego Devil, tempting Jesus with bread.



Every other week the kids will hear a new Bible story, see a new scene, even help build the scenes themselves. On the other weeks they will have a chance to revisit the scenes and really get their hands on the Bible stories, walk through the scenes, manipulate them, and hopefully gain a deeper understanding and more vivid memories. Next week they will take their own figures and lay down palm branches to welcome God's chosen,

Jesus, into the city and then will see Jesus on trial. In coming weeks they will help build Golgatha, the hill where Jesus was crucified. They will be able to roll the Lego stone away from the tomb and find it empty.

It has been really exciting to see how engaged the kids get being able to have their hands on the stories. Last week, right after Lisa Levett finished telling the temptation story, the Bishop walked in. He hadn't heard the story yet. So we invited the kids to recall the story using the two Lego scenes as teaching aids. It was delightful.

Looking forward to all the different, new, and exciting things that this spring holds.

God Bless,  
Pr Steve

## March Birthdays

3/1 Christine Snow  
 3/2 Philip Kludt  
 3/5 Carrie Hennekey  
 Bradley Cole  
 Tom Cole  
 David Koza  
 Michael Moore  
 3/6 Peggy Warren  
 3/8 Kristina Johnston  
 Clifford Provost  
 3/9 Tyler Banker  
 3/11 Jeanette Behnke  
 Felice D'Agostino  
 3/18 Jason Pugh  
 Lisa Levett  
 3/20 Angelina Lockhart  
 3/22 Jennifer Cole  
 3/28 Michael Schuth  
 3/29 Pat Hardenbrook  
 3/30 Joe Klafehn



## Those Serving In March

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

Mar. 6 Jennifer Banker  
 Mar. 13 Beth Provost & Charley Duschen  
 Mar. 20 Karen St. John  
 Mar. 27 Karen St. John

### USHERS

Mar. 6 & 13 Cliff Provost & Ralph Pugh  
 Mar. 20 & 27 Bill Behnke & Reed Heidemann

### ALTAR CARE

Jill Groves

### Pastor Steve's Office Hours

Pastor Steve will be in his office

Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or by appointment.

## March Anniversaries

3/18 Gary & Linda Kludt  
 3/22 Craig & Janet Herman

### Snow Plowing for 2015-2016 season

This year Concordia contracted with Mark Groves for now removal. Since we had no snow in Nov/Dec they discounted our rate by \$200.

Thanks for Mark Groves for the consideration and generosity!

Additional thanks to Alan Lambert for his continued stewardship at Concordia, including regular snow removal around the building.

### Monthly Offerings to Date:

Simply Giving January	\$650.00	
Feb. 7	\$3,596.00	84
Ash Wednesday		21
Building Fund	\$50.00	
From Yoga	\$75.00	
Feb. 14		No Church
Ash Wednesday	\$86.00	
Feb. 21	\$1,610.00	57
Building Fund	\$50.00	
Feb. 28	\$1,750.00	59

## CALENDAR

Mon., Mar. 2	Yoga	6:30 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 2	Finance Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Mar. 3	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 4	Seriously Funny Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 6	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Breakfast	11:15 a.m.
Fri., Mar. 11	Seriously Funny Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 13	Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.
Tues., Mar. 15	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 16	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 19	Seriously Funny Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 20	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.
	PALM SUNDAY Worship	10:00 a.m.
Wed, Mar. 23	Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Mar. 24	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m.
	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 25	Seriously Funny Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Fri., Mar. 25	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m.
	GOOD FRIDAY	7:00 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 27	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.
	EASTER Worship	10:00 a.m.

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**Please check the bulletin board for a list of supplies needed for the church.**

*Tomorrow's plans I do not know,  
I only know this minute;  
But He will say, "This is the way,  
By faith walk ye in it."*

## **Congregational Vitality Assessment**

The results of the survey from January have been compiled and processed by the ELCA statistics department and a full report has been sent to Pr Steve. The Director of Evangelical Mission will bring the CVA team to meet with Church Council and the Stewardship Committee to help make sense of the results and talk about any plans moving forward. Thank you for your time taking the survey and you will be hearing more about it soon!

## **PALM SUNDAY**

March 20th - 10:00 a.m.

*Celebrate as Christ makes his entrance!  
Yet there is a reminder of the path of Holy Week.*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

March 24th - 7:00 p.m.

*Christ institutes Holy Communion*

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

March 25th - 7:00 p.m.

*The deed is done. God's desire to save takes motion.*

## **EASTER WORSHIP**

March 27th - 10:00 a.m.

*Life and Love get the final word. God's power to save is victorious. Let us celebrate as loud and joyous as we can!*

## **EASTER PLANTS**

There is a sign up chart on the bulletin board if you would like to purchase a plant at a special rate to help beautify the altar area on Easter Sunday. Please sign up if you wish to purchase your own plant so it may be printed in the Easter bulletin. Any questions see Elaine Quetschenbach or call her at 964-2844.

Lily - \$7.50

Hyacinth

(pink, purple, blue, white) - \$6.50

6" Tulip (pink, red, yellow) - \$6.50

Mini Daffodils - \$4.75



**Save the Date**

**Friday, April 8th**

**7:30 pm**

**Concordia's Annual  
Wine and Cheese  
Tasting Party**

# ***Conversations Thoughts and Memories***

Following Sunday Services, Joanie and I have a conversation at the bottom of the choir steps. Topic: the slow but steady decline in attendance, especially on the south side. Joanie mentioned finding old bulletins where attendance was 100-135 on most Sundays!!!

I came to Kendall in Dec. of 1951 - and church was full. Ladies wore dresses and hats, men wore silk ties. On special occasions chairs were placed across the back and sometimes down the side to accommodate the people.

About this time the young men were leaving the farm to work in Rochester - usually Kodak. However, they continued to live and worship in Kendall. As families grew, the young married couples formed the "Loyals" (Young Adult Lutherans). There were 19 couples - 38 people working for the Sunday School! The big project was a "Smorgasbord" in the spring and a homemade ice cream social in the summer. There was a large group of older women making up the Ladies Aid. Ever busy, ever faithful.

Following Confirmation, where there were 12-14 in a class, these kids joined the Luther League, a group run by the kids and supervised by various adults. Kids from other churches that didn't have their own youth groups even joined. This group dissolved with the arrival of a new Pastor who felt he should be in charge. We even had a junior choir.

As years went by and our older members died young people, even girls, went to the city to work and settled there. Students started going to college and moving out of Kendall, even out of state.

It isn't as though we haven't had new members to replace them BUT where are they?? Our congregation is no longer strictly from Kendall. We have members from Albion, Hamlin, Hilton, and Brockport. The attendance this year has really decreased. It seems as though the attendance is made up from the D'Agostino families, Kludt and Lockhart families. And now the Hardenbrook and Tomasino families are bringing the youth back into church.

What is going on at Concordia?

What is going to happen to Concordia when the few elders die?

Is it going to improve and increase in members once again OR are we simply going to dismiss the Pastor and lock the doors? It can be a sad situation - especially for those who remember the former times. I don't mean the above mentioned are the only ones in church - we still have a few faithful couples and singles without which we would be lost. All are important, whether we've remembered to name them in this letter or not.

I'm going to name some of the old families (as best I can remember) that built and made Concordia what it used to be: Brehse - Bonke - Brink - several Jurhs, Jurs, Nowack, Schepler, Hoekrarhs, Knapp, Frobels, Knap, Waterstreet, Shildt, Woodcook, Herman, Wolf, Behnke, Hetzke, Robinson, and Ohlebeck.

Well these are my thoughts and memories and how about you?

Would you consider going back onto council and committees? Maybe stepping into a leadership role for the first time? What about evangelism? Going and calling on members - not just those coming to church but especially those who don't. Reaching out and building community is so important. How can we build our church?

Let's not drive by Concordia and see a sign saying "Closed - For Sale"!

I hope this picks your brain and inspires something to keep memories going.

God Bless

Joette Knapp

# PRAYER VENTURES

## March 2016



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

1 We remember in our prayers, especially during spring, congregations and communities subject to severe weather and flooding, that God will guide their emergency preparations, equip them to care for their neighbors and grant them safety.

2 We give thanks for the more than \$15 million raised during the ELCA Malaria Campaign and ask God to strengthen and bless the continuing successful efforts of our partners and their health-related projects.

3 In our Lenten reflections, we are keenly aware of our many troubles, sins and shortcomings, yet we rejoice in God's forgiveness and love that surrounds and upholds us day and night.

4 We remember in our prayers the Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran seminaries as they begin the process of creating a unified school of theology for preparing Christian leaders for the church and world.

5 We pray for God's blessings on the critical work in HIV and AIDS ministry that Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade are doing in Nigeria as ELCA missionaries.

6 We remember in our prayers, with thanksgiving and relief, that God seeks us when we are lost or have strayed and celebrates our awkward return as did the father in Jesus' parable of the lost son.

7 We have many brothers and sisters – of all ages – who live with physical and cognitive disabilities. We ask God to broaden our awareness of, and appreciation for, the faith and diverse gifts they bring to our communities and to the body of Christ.

8 We pray on this International Women's Day that God's holy and life-giving Spirit moves every human heart, that the barriers dividing us may crumble and hatreds cease so we might live in justice and peace.

9 As we continue our self-reflection during Lent, we ask God to help us look beyond ourselves and into the lives of people around us and in other nations, guiding us to actions of care and justice in the manner and name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and servant.

10 We remember in our prayers the work and faithful witness of the Rev. Dorcas Wang, an ELCA missionary serving in the Republic of China.

11 We ask God to bless and inspire Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's leadership, especially in helping our church address the issues of racism, racial disparity in the criminal justice system, care for the incarcerated and their families, advocacy for those wrongly convicted, and support and guidance for those who enforce the law and work in the justice system.

12 We remember in our prayers and ask God to bless and guide the work of the seven young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Argentina and Uruguay.

13 In our baptism, we experience the freedom that can only come through the power of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. For this undeserved gift of love, we give thanks.

14 We give thanks to God for the generous grant the ELCA has received from the Lilly Endowment to help fund an initiative to address the financial and economic struggles that often prevent pastors from leading congregations effectively.

15 We remember in our prayers all those who support and empower international women leaders in the life and development of this church and our communities. We pray to be awakened to the power and capacity our sisters have in transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

16 Whether gathered for a Lenten meal or worship, we pray that our thoughts and reflections will be on Jesus and that we will trust and follow Jesus no matter where he leads or how difficult the journey.

17 On this St. Patrick's Day, we give thanks to God for our brothers and sisters who respond to God's call to serve as missionaries in the world. We ask God to fill them with love and respect for the people and communities they serve and with a tireless enthusiasm to share the gospel.

18 The prayerful words of the psalmist in ancient times still holds meaning for our prayers today – "Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

19 We remember in our prayers the leaders in our congregations – rostered and lay – who commit themselves to sharing the gospel, deepening our faith, and equipping and sending us to do God's work in the world.

20 Palm Sunday Christ defies our images of him as a conquering king, powerful religious leader or just another prophet. We pray that we receive, by faith, Jesus as our Savior, messiah, servant and son of God – the fulfillment of God's loving promises to us.

21 Monday of Holy Week Mary of Bethany was extravagant in her love for Jesus and her anointing of him before his death. We pray that we too may not be shy or embarrassed in our witness and worship, especially in telling others of Jesus' life, suffering, death and resurrection for our sake.

22 We remember in our prayers the ELCA International Women Leaders scholarship recipients Abby Lai, Elisa Pérez-Trejo, Lynette Lee, Melissa Neo, Sarah Abendanon and Sthela Hanitirinirina, that God will bless them and guide and inspire their studies.

23 We ask God to grant us daily strength and courage to speak of our faith and act as the gospel urges us and to resist the temptation to stay quiet or hide the light of Jesus Christ.

24 Maundy Thursday It's difficult to be humble and serve people in this day and age, especially in a society that belittles such behaviors as signs of weakness. We ask God to remind us of Jesus' example when he washed the feet of his disciples and embolden us to do likewise for our neighbors and those in need.

25 Good Friday Again faced with the story of Jesus' betrayal, judgment, suffering, torture and disgraceful public death, we humble ourselves before God and plead for forgiveness, asking that God reassure us of Jesus' boundless, sacrificial love for all humanity.

26 Vigil of Easter We confess our times of disbelief and uncertain faith in Jesus and ask God to embolden us as witnesses – imperfect as we are – to run and share, as Mary Magdalene did, the good news of Jesus Christ in whom we have forgiveness and new life.

27 Easter Day Christ is risen! We rejoice and ask God's Spirit to dispel our doubts, fears and suspicions and fill us with faith and amazement over God's miraculous love for us.

28 This day and every day, we offer prayers of wonder and praise for the presence of God in our lives, especially when we least expect it or doubt God's power and creativity to effect change in our lives and world.

29 We remember in our prayers and ask God to bless and further the leadership development work of the Rev. Chad and Natalie Rimmer, ELCA missionaries in Senegal.

30 We give thanks for the poets of the church who speak from their heart, spirit and life experiences and inspire our faith and imagination through creative means.

31 We remember on this day when some states celebrate Cesar Chavez Day, the leaders, advocates and activists who are moved to work for the wellbeing and just treatment of all people, especially those who labor under difficult conditions and whose voices are often neglected.

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Sexton Alan Lambert

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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Nancy Comstock

Dorrie Hardenbrook Vice President

Russ Levett President

Michael Morey

Robin Schepler

Beth Schmidt Secretary

Norm St. John

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The CONCORDIAN is published monthly. We encourage all members to contribute articles which may be submitted to the Church office by the 3rd Sunday of the month. The pastor is available for visitation whenever requested, as well as hospital visits when informed. The Parish Administrator is at the office every Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon. If you have any questions, concerns or news for the bulletins or newsletters, Beth can be reached at 589-9488 any time.

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[www.concordialutherankendallny.org](http://www.concordialutherankendallny.org)

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