

Parish Partyline

Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

March 2020

Prayers, Intercession, & Thanksgiving

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Pray for...

Those serving in the Armed Forces

Chris Wordekemper
Taylor Johnson

Those in Senior Living or Homebound

Bonnie Kellogg (Homebound)
Frieda Bowman (Hillcrest)
Marlen & Suzie Johnson (Hillcrest)
Ernie & Lyla Swanson (Brookdale)

Concordia Council Members

President – Carolyn Alt
Vice President - Hart Vollers
Secretary – Judy Martindale
Financial Secretary - Lee Johnson
Financial Liaison – Dustin Thompson
Projects - Trisha Reifenrath

First Council Members

Paul Boyle
Vickie Sands
Chris Beach
Gloria Dowling
Katie Olesen
Rod Ketelsen

Concordia Members

Marilyn Wallin
Laurie Wayman; Jayson, Preston
Georgia Addison
Jade Addison
Dawn Addison-Corbit; Addison, Audra

First Members

Shirley Lanser
Duane & Barb Lund
Richie & Tina Monteith; Kiara, Cole, Landon
Scott & Jean Morgan
Jason & Katie Olesen; Josh, Gabe

** If you know of people who should be added to our prayers, please contact Pastor Deb Valentine or Bridgett Connell*

Worship Helpers & Celebrations

	First Helpers	Concordia Helpers
Ushers & Greeters	Scott & Jean Morgan	Dustin Thompson & Grant Settje
Acolytes	3/1 Gabe Olesen 3/8 Gabe Olesen 3/15 Gabe Olesen 3/22 Gabe Olesen 3/29 Gabe Olesen	3/1 Lane Fischer 3/8 Kolten Settje 3/15 Tanner Thompson 3/22 Cade Johnson 3/29 Harper Bruning
Lay Readers	Olesen Family	Carolyn Alt
Communion Steward	Barb Sands	Dawn Addison-Corbit
Altar Guild	Barb Karmann & Skyler H.	Judy Martindale
Altar Flowers		Lenten Season
Coffee after Service	3/1 Barb Sands 3/8 Greg & Ann Carr 3/15 Vickie Sands 3/22 Olesen Family 3/29 Henry & Clarice Johnson	

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

First

3/7 Wendi Hammerstrom
3/11 Cole Monteith
3/13 Scott Morgan
3/20 Isaac Verzani
3/25 Jordyn Carr
3/27 Paul & Colleen Boyle
3/31 Reed Hingst

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

Concordia

3/2 Trish Reifenrath
3/3 Pam Anderson
3/3 Turner Thompson
3/4 Hart & Mary Vollers
3/5 Jayson Wayman
3/5 Audra Corbit
3/7 Jason Fischer
3/20 Amanda Fischer
3/22 William Anderson
3/22 Dustin & Alissa Thompson
3/25 Grant & Brandi Settje
3/30 Frieda Bowman



From the Pastor's Keyboard...

During the Lenten season we are reminded of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. We are also mindful of those who are walking in the wilderness right now: those who are facing the loss of a loved one, an illness, or the illness of a loved one, just to name a few. May we keep all of those who are hurting in our hearts and prayers and reach out to help as we are able.

A few years ago, I went online to research early Christian celebrations of Lent and Holy Week. I discovered that much of what we know, comes from the diary of a woman who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 381–384 CE. Egeria was from Gallaecia, in northern Portugal. She shared detailed information about her pilgrimage throughout the Holy Land in a letter to a group of women back home. Part of her letter was discovered in a monastic library in Arezzo, Italy in 1884.

Egeria wrote before the liturgical calendar was fully developed, before Jesus' birth was celebrated on December 25th, and before Ash Wednesday was commemorated. She speaks of gathering for Sabbath worship on the seventh day, (Saturday) and again on the Lord's Day, (Sunday). She speaks in detail about worship on each of the Paschal Days (Lent). In Jerusalem, the preparation for Easter, was 8 weeks long because neither the Sabbath, nor the Lord's day were included in the 40 fast days. (Today, only Sunday, is not included in the 40 fast days.)

What we call Holy Week, was known as "The Great Week", and they commemorated the events of each day of Jesus' final week. They gathered to worship each day with hymns, prayers, and the reading of the scriptures that pertained to that day. On Wednesday, Egeria writes, the priest "reads that passage where Judas Iscariot went to the Jews to set the price they would pay him to betray the Lord. While this passage is being read, there is such moaning and groaning from among the people that no one can help being moved to tears in that moment." (Egeria: Diary of a Pilgrim p. 107)

Robert Webber, in Preacher's Magazine (3/1/88) states that: "These ancient Christians were convinced that the resurrection could not be adequately experienced without traveling the way of death themselves. They desired to fulfill Jesus' admonitions of Mark 10 in a literal way by taking up the cross and going up to Jerusalem with him (v.33)...The intent was to prepare for Easter by reliving the mystery. Fasting and prayer... led the participants into a deeper experiential appreciation of the mystery of salvation... By hearing the Word and by acting it out—not just for a day, but over a period of time—the message took hold more firmly. This week of the climactic events of the arrest, conviction, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the most extraordinary week in the Christian calendar, the week in which the redemption of the world happened, in which the re-creation of the world began." Unquote.

Egeria revealed that as Christians gathered each day of Holy Week to journey with Christ, they would hear the words that Jesus spoke, and remember the events that took place on that day. And as they relived the events, there were moments in which it seemed they were there, with Christ in his suffering.

Without the crucifixion, we cannot experience the resurrection. Without suffering, we cannot fully experience Joy. Unless we enter into our own wilderness experiences, we cannot fully experience Christ's suffering and the fullness of God's presence and power with us. My prayer is that by spending time in prayer, meditation, and Bible Study; by remembering Christ's life, ministry, suffering, and death; we will open ourselves to spiritual growth and new life. May this new life come to us – both as individuals and as congregations – that we may be able to fully experience the joy of the Resurrection.

In Christ,

Pastor Deb

First Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

One unified body of Christ, called to be agents of love and service to all!

First Lutheran Council met on February 9, 2020. Present were Gloria Dowling, Richie Monteith, Denise Hingst, Chris Beach, Pastor Deb Valentine, Katie Olesen and Bridget Connell.

Richie called the meeting to order.

Pastor Deb began the meeting in prayer.

The Pastoral report was given and reviewed.

No Secretary Report available.

Financial Report was given by Katie. Denise made a motion to approve the report, 2nd by Gloria Dowling. Council approved

Vacation Bible school was discussed. Tabled until next council meeting.

Flower Cooler is not working again. Discussion on fixing or replacing, will be looking into option.

Katie will contact Rex Wheeler about the Virginia Wheeler Scholarship for 2020 graduates.

Chris Beach asked if the Allen Community Choir could use the church for practices.

Motion to adjourn by Gloria, 2nd by Chris. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Olesen, Financial Secretary

First Lutheran Annual Meeting Highlights

February 9, 2020

Richie Monteith, called the Ministry Celebration to order.

Pastor Deb Valentine led the opening prayer.

The minutes from the 2019 minutes were available for review.

Congregation was giving time to read the Interim Pastor's Reports; Letter to the Congregation and review the Statistical Report from 2019.

The council highlights from 2019 were covered.

The Women of the ELCA report was available for review.

The Backpack program report for 2019 was available for review and discussed. Richie talked about how the Backpack program is one of the local missions we as a Church focus on and how great it is for our community.

Financial Reports were reviewed:

- Audit Committee Approved the financial reports
- The Treasurers Report was ready and discussed by Richie Monteith.
- The Financial Secretary Report was given by Richie Monteith.

Old Business:

- No old business to discuss

Josh Olesen gave a story of Mission on the Youth Mission Trip to Chicago in 2019 and thanked the congregation and council for the opportunity to go and is looking forward to the 2020 Mission Trip to Nashville.

New Business:

- 2020 Ministry Support Plan (Budget) was given by Richie Monteith
- It was council's recommendation that the 2020 Ministry Support Plan gets approved.
- Motion was made by Jaclyn Beach to approve the proposed budget, 2nd by Lyle Carlson. The congregation approved the 2020 budget.

Elections:

- Council: Katie Olesen and Rod Ketelsen were elected to council
- Audit Committee: Nick Tramp
- Synod Delegates: Chris and Jaclyn Beach

Tina Monteith mad a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Lyle Carlson

Pastor Valentine led in a closing prayer

Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

Reflecting God's love in service to all through our family of faith!

Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

The Concordia Council met Monday February 3rd at Concordia Lutheran. Present were Pastor, Carolyn Alt, Lee Johnson, Judy Martindale, Hart Vollers, and Trisha Reifenrath. Dustin Thompson was absent. Bridgett Connell and Peg Anderson were also in attendance.

Carolyn opened the meeting to order and Pastor had an opening prayer.

Reports were reviewed and approved.

Peg Anderson was on hand to ask questions and offer suggestions in her new treasurer position.

Old Business:

- Discussion of call committee items needed to proceed to next step
- Updating more banking authorizations and access to accounts
- Furnace replacement project. There will be a special congregational meeting on Feb 23 for the purpose of approving a plan to finance this improvement project.
- Repairs to ceilings and walls in basement entry are nearly completed.
- Mentor program discussion was tabled until March
- Copier contract has been renewed.

New Business:

- Set date of April 19th for our "Telling our Story" event. Potluck after service will be a part of this.
- Lenten offerings will be given to Haven House this year.
- Coffee/Snacks after Lenten services at Concordia will be provided by:
 - Church Council-Mar 4 Hope Circle-March 18 Choir-April 1
- Membership records updating and entering into our Power Church program will be an upcoming project.
- Some discussion was held on upcoming 135th church anniversary recognition, Georgia Addison has made a banner from retired paraments that could be dedicated during a Sunday service.
- 2020 goal setting will be worked on at March meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn, and Carolyn closed with prayer.

Next meeting is March 2nd at First Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Martindale

Ministry Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Council Meeting at FLC

March 2nd CLC 6:30 p.m.
Joint 7:00 p.m. FLC 7:30 p.m.

Lenten Worship at CLC

March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

CLC Choir Practice

March 4th following Lenten Service

CLC Hope Circle

March 5th at Hillcrest at 2:00 p.m.

FLC WELCA

March 11th at 1:30 p.m.

Lenten Worship at FLC

March 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Worship at CLC

March 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline

March 23rd

Lenten Worship at FLC

March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

WOW – Women of the Word

March 30th at 6:00 p.m.
at Parsonage

No Confirmation During Lent

CLC Choir Practice



March 4th
Following the
Lenten Service

Adopt-A-Soldier Ministry

Concordia Lutheran Church will continue to support our soldiers with our Adopt-A-Soldier care packages. Boxes are located on the small table in the narthex. Please feel free to add any items you would like to share. Snacks, game items, nuts, are all terrific items. Our members have been so wonderful at filling up boxes with such creative and unique supplies, please continue to be creative!! These care packages are a terrific reminder to our soldiers that we are thinking about them while they are away from their family and friends. Let's continue to shower them with cards, care packages and PRAYERS!! During the year, we will make multiple shipments to our service members.



Sgt. Christopher Wordekemper
53 Barclay Place Court Apr D3
Charlottesville, VA 22901

CTR2 Taylor Johnson
USS Lassen DDG82
Unit 100190, Box 1221
FPO, AA 34091



This year for our Lenten services we will meet at 7pm for Holden Evening Prayer worship services, with a short meditation on the I Am sayings of Jesus.

March 4th 7:00 p.m. at CLC

March 11th 7:00 p.m. at FLC

March 18th 7:00 p.m. at CLC

March 25th 7:00 p.m. at FLC

April 1st 7:00 p.m. at CLC

April 9th (Maundy Thursday) 7:00 p.m. at FLC

April 10th (Good Friday) 7:00 p.m. at CLC

April 12th 7:30 a.m. (Sunrise Service) at CLC
10:15 a.m. (Easter Service) at FLC

FLC & CLC will be serving
coffee & snacks after Lenten Services on
3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, & 4/1

Ministry Opportunities & Humor

LENTEN STUDY



This year Pastor Deb and Pastor Cathy (Allen UMC) are planning a Lenten Study on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm beginning March 5th at the Allen UMC. (We will alternate meeting locations between First and the UMC.) We will be using the study guide for Max Lucado's new book, *Jesus, The God Who Knows Your Name*. Please let Pastor Deb know, if you would like to take part. You will find a sign-up sheet at both First and Concordia. (Note, Pastor Deb will not be at the two sessions when Hope Circle meets.) There will also be a study group that meets Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. Right now, it is planned to be held at the UMC. But please let Pastor Deb know if you would prefer to attend in the evening, and we can have that be a joint study as well.

FLC WELCA

March 11th at 1:30 p.m.

Lesson: Jean Morgan

Hostess: Barb Lund



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March 23rd

If you want something in the next newsletter please email it to secretaryatcf@gmail.com by the deadline.

Support the Allen Backpack Program

Save your HyVee receipts! Put in the jar at FLC

Contact Info

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Concordia Lutheran Church

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First Lutheran Church

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