

Parish Partyline

Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

December 2019

Prayers, Intercession, & Thanksgiving

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours. Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling. Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless world of light eternal, now and forever. **Amen.**

WE PRAY FOR...

Those serving in the Armed Forces

Chris Wordekemper
Taylor Johnson

Those in Nursing Homes or Homebound

Bonnie Kellogg (Homebound)
Frieda Bowman (Hillcrest)
Marlen & Suzie Johnson (Hillcrest)

Concordia Council Members

President - Grant Settje
Vice President - Hart Vollers
Secretary - Dawn Addison-Corbit
Financial Secretary - Lee Johnson
Financial Liaison - Dustin Thompson
Projects - Trisha Reifenrath

First Council Members

President - Richie Monteith
Vice President - Paul Boyle
Secretary - Vickie Sands
Financial Secretary - Denise Hingst
Treasurer - Chris Beach
Events - Gloria Dowling

Concordia Members

Megan Kvols; Beth, Grant, Jake
Elaine Lubberstedt
Keith & Kathy Lubberstedt
Nicole Lubberstedt; Emily
Terry & Peg Lutt

First Members

Darlene Fahrenholz
Jessica Fahrenholz
David & Iva Geiger
Dwight & Ronnie Gotch
Wendi Hammerstrom

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

November Worship Helpers & Celebrations

	First Helpers	Concordia Helpers
Ushers & Greeters	Olesen Family	Warren Hanson & Terry Lutt
Acolytes	12/1 Josh Olesen 12/8 Josh Olesen 12/15 Josh Olesen 12/22 Josh Olesen 12/29 Josh Olesen	12/1 Kolton Fischer 12/8 Josh Grone 12/15 Joe Grone 12/22 Delaney Johnson 12/29 Kolten Settje
Lay Readers	Olesen Family	Georgia Addison
Communion Steward	Katie Olesen	Danita Hanson
Altar Guild	Jean Morgan & Bea Osbahr	Danita Hanson
Altar Flowers		Georgia Addison
Coffee after Service	12/1 Jerry & Donna Schroeder 12/8 Barb Sands 12/15 12/22 Olesen Family 12/29	



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First

12/1 Mona Kramer
 12/1 Tom Sands
 12/4 Shelly Jones
 12/7 Gloria Dowling
 12/9 Betty Carr
 12/12 Breanne Benstead
 12/12 Duane Lund
 12/10 Joshua Olesen
 12/16 Shane Connell
 12/17 Vicky Hingst
 12/17 Nick & Lindsay Tramp
 12/24 Mariah Kramer
 12/27 Brogan Jones

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia

12/7 Dwight & Pam Anderson
 12/11 Zach Harder
 12/12 Kyler Hangman
 12/15 Joseph Grone
 12/15 Laurie Wayman
 12/17 Ernie Swanson
 12/21 Jim Nelson

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

Since I am still getting settled in the parsonage, it seems I have lost track of time. So, it doesn't seem possible that we are entering the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent means coming. During Advent, we remember Christ's coming into the world more than 2000 years ago as a tiny baby; we prepare for Christ's coming to us here and now; and we watch for Christ's coming at the end of history.

Advent is supposed to be a time of Joy, Peace, Hope, and Love. However, schedules are filled with Christmas parties, concerts, caroling, and programs for church and school. There are presents to buy, cookies to bake, a house to clean and food to prepare. It can seem as if there isn't enough time, energy or money to meet all of our needs. For some, the Christmas season becomes a time of stress, rather than a time to experience the joy of the season. So, we need to find ways to refresh our spirits, and place our focus on the reason for the season.

Most of us greet a newborn baby with awe. We are touched in ways that cannot be described. A newborn baby is fragile and vulnerable, a symbol of perfection and purity. In a baby we experience the mystery that is life. In the coming of Jesus as a baby, we experience the mystery of the incarnation—Immanuel, God with us. God sent Jesus into the world to reveal God's great love for us which is greater than we can imagine.

In this Advent season, I would encourage each of you to find ways to bring Christ into your holiday (Holiday means Holy Day). Join us for Worship; welcome Jesus into your life and into your home, as you would a friend. Have an Advent wreath in your home; spend time in Bible study, prayer and meditation; read the birth narratives found in Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2, listen to and sing the Christmas carols which proclaim the coming of Christ. When we reach out to help those who are in need, those who are lonely, ill, or in prison, we share Christ's love with others. In this way, too, we help prepare ourselves for Christ's coming into our midst.

I would encourage you to attend the Living Nativity in the Allen United Methodist Church parking lot from 5pm-7pm Saturday December 7th and Sunday December 8th. There will be live animals, narration, and the singing of Christmas carols. (Cookies and coffee will be served inside the church).

My prayer for you is that you will experience the awe of Christmas, and that you may know the love, hope, and joy and peace of the season.

Blessings and Peace,

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 November 4, 2019. Present were Gloria Dowling, Richie Monteith, Denise Hingst, Chris Beach, and Pastor Deb.

Financial reports were not discussed because they were not available.

Fall Festival and Turkey Bingo were discussed. They will be on November 17, 2019. Dinner will be from 11:00-1:00, with Turkey Bingo following from 1:00-2:00.

The Ministry Site Profile is finished. Richie will submit it and wait for Pastor Kristen Van Stee to approve it.

The AC needs to get taken out of the office window.

We discussed our 2020 scheduled events.

Closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Richie Monteith

Joint Council Meeting Highlights

First Lutheran Council and Concordia Council met on November 4, 2019. Present were Gloria Dowling, Richie Monteith, Denise Hingst, Chris Beach, Grant Settje, Hart Vollers, Lee Johnson, Dawn Addison-Corbit, Dustin Thompson, Trisha Reifenrath, and Pastor Deb.

Devotions by Dawn Addison-Corbit.

Minutes from October's meeting were read and approved.

Pastor's report was read and discussed.

Both councils discussed their progress on forming call committees.

We agreed to spend the \$159 to purchase the PowerChurch program.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Richie Monteith

Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

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

The Concordia Council met Monday November 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran following joint council. Present were Pastor Deb, Grant Settje, Hart Vollers, Lee Johnson, Dustin Thompson, Trisha Reifenrath and Dawn Addison-Corbit.

Dawn read devotions and Pastor's report was reviewed at joint council.

Grant called the meeting to order. Last month's minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

Property committee gave updates that are being done and need to be done with the church and parsonage.

Old Business included waiting for another bid on the church furnace, father son outing ideas and an additional soldier box to be filled.

New business included recruiting another member for the Call Committee, discussion on where proceeds from the soup supper will go, when to vote on the committees of the congregation, and lighting in the west parking lot.

The Sunday School program will be December 15th during worship service and Christmas caroling will be that same afternoon.

The sign in front of the church needs to reflect our current pastor and worship time.

Custodial candidates are being sought for the open position.

A motion was made to adjourn by Dawn with a second by Lee. All were in favor.

Next council meeting will be December 2nd at First beginning at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Addison-Corbit

Ministry Opportunities

Upcoming Events

CLC Council Meeting

December 1st following worship

FLC Council Meeting

December 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

CLC Advent Supper

December 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class at FLC

December 4th 7:00-8:15 p.m.

FLC WELCA

December 11th at Noon

CLC Choir Practice

December 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class at FLC

December 11th 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Programs

December 15th
FLC at 8:30 a.m.
CLC 10:15 a.m.

Confirmation Class at CLC

December 18th 7:00-8:15 p.m.
Parent's Night - Potluck

Newsletter Deadline

December 23rd

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24th
FLC 7:00 p.m.
CLC 11:00 p.m.

Pastor on Vacation

December 26th – January 2nd



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 still be shipping out a care package once a month.



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



Winter Weather Reminder:



If the school district is closed in the town of the congregation having weekday activities, church activities will also automatically be cancelled (even if it is sunny and clear at the time of the scheduled event).

For late day weather impacts, weekend activities, and worship the Council Presidents and Pastor will decide whether to cancel and we will get the word out. Be safe out there this winter!

Food Pantry Challenge

The "Soup Can Trophy" is on the line!

The food drive begins November 24 and runs through December 15.

Let's be generous and help our neighbors and bring pride to our congregation!

Who will take the coveted trophy this year?



Ministry Opportunities



FLC SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

CLC SERVICE AT 11:00 P.M.

All are welcome to join in this time of celebration of Christ, Our Savior.

FLC has adopted a Family for Christmas through Haven House.

Sign up for items you want to donate on the list on the back table in the sanctuary and/or on the Facebook post.

Items need to be brought to the church by December 15th.

Advent Supper



All ladies and girls are invited to the Advent Supper on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 at the church to enjoy and evening of great food and a reflection on preparing for Christmas.

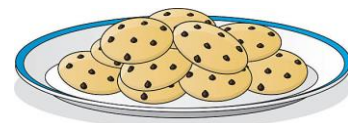
CLC is looking for a new custodian.

Please contact a council member if you are interested in this position.



WELCA – FLC

WELCA will meet Dec 11, 2019 at 12 noon for a potluck salad luncheon. After dinner we will be packing cookie trays for various people in the community. Any ladies of the church are welcome to join us. We know not everyone can come to our meetings, but we recognize the fact that they help with quilting and kitchen duties. -Jean



Support the Allen Backpack Program

Save your HyVee receipts!



Put in the jar at FLC

Cross Wall at Concordia Lutheran Church



We have started our cross wall!

Individuals, families, or groups (i.e. confirmation classes) now have an opportunity to donate a cross for our cross wall. Please write on the back of your cross the following: Donor's name(s), date of donation, name of honoree (if applicable) and any background/history of the cross if known. Submit crosses to either Trisha Reifenrath or Pastor Deb.

CLC SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on December 8, 2019 immediately following worship. We will be voting on council members.

CLC Choir Practice on December 11th
with Christmas Celebration
after practice.


Bring a sweet or salty treat to share.

Ministry Opportunities

The First Lutheran and United Methodist Churches of Allen are presenting a

DRIVE THRU NATIVITY

Saturday, Dec 7th and Sunday, December 8th
5:00 pm—7:00 pm
Allen United Methodist Parking Lot
402 Summit Drive
Snow Dates: December 14th & 15th



Bring the entire family to celebrate Christmas this Season.
Come experience Live, Narrated Nativity Scenes.
Enjoy listening to the Choir under the stars!
Cookies, Coffee, Hot Cocoa will be available inside the Church!

freewill donations will be accepted for the Allen Backpack Program



CLC Sunday School Christmas Program

December 15th during worship

Please come hear the Christmas message by the youth of our church.



December 23rd

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

CLC Christmas Caroling



December 15th

Time: TBD

FLC Sunday School Christmas Program

December 15th during worship

Please come hear the Christmas message by the youth of our church.



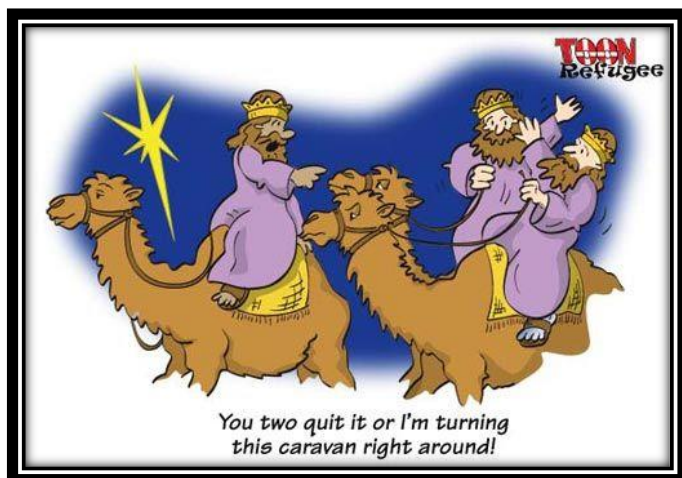
Children's Christmas Program

FLC Members

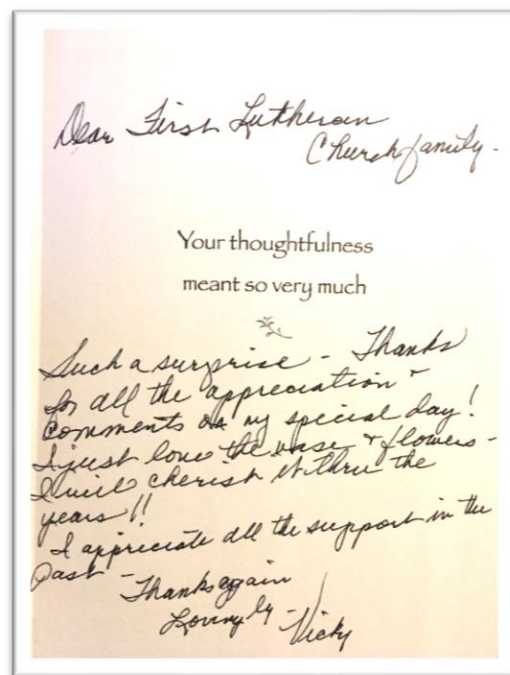
Dixon County Food Pantry requests the following items

Pancake Mix	Instant Potatoes
Soups/Stews	Flavored Noodles
Pasta	Cereal
Pasta Sauce	Oatmeal
Canned Pasta	Peanut Butter
Mac 'N' Cheese	Toilet Paper
Facial Tissue	Paper Towels
Monetary Donations	

Humor, Congratulations, & Thank You's



Thank You



Thank you for all the prayers during my radiation treatments. I have now finished my treatments. I am very thankful that I continue to feel well. **Amanda Fischer**

Thank you, Concordia Lutheran Church for the Bible and bookmark. It meant a lot to me. Also thank you for hosting the party for confirmation on the 27th. **Kolton Fischer**

Thank you to our church family for the get well wishes, prayers, cards and visits while I was in the hospital. A special thank you to the Sunshine Committee for the gift and visit and Pastor Deb! Grateful! Thankful! Blessed!
Ron Harder

Thanks so much for all who worked to make our Fall Fellowship Supper a huge success. Thanks for everyone that made soup, sandwiches, pies and desserts. Thank you to all who came donated and enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Co-Chairs Jason and Amanda Fischer and Doug and Lynette Krie

Concordia Lutheran wants to thank the Evonne Magnuson estate for the gift to Concordia Lutheran Endowment. The money has been invested in Mission Investment Fund ELCA. **Concordia Lutheran Endowment Committee**

Contact Info

Pastor Deb Valentine
pastoratcandf@gmail.com
(402) 300-0306

Secretary: Bridgett Connell
secretaryatcf@gmail.com
(402) 841-3110

Concordia Lutheran Church

Website: www.concordialutheranelca.com
Facebook: Concordia Lutheran Church, ELCA

First Lutheran Church

Website: www.firstlutheranallen.com
Facebook: First Lutheran Church, ELCA~Allen, NE