

Parish Partyline

Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

February 2020

Prayers, Intercession, & Thanksgiving

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in 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

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

Concordia Members

Tammy Sterling; T'Kayeh
Ernie & Lyla Swanson
Dustin & Alissa Thompson; Toni, Tanner, Turner
Melvin Vanderheiden
Hart & Mary Vollers

First Members

Heidi Keil; Wyatt, Cheyenne
Steve Keil; Wyatt, Cheyenne
Bonnie Kellogg
Rod & Barb Ketelsen
Shelly Klug

** 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	Barb Sands & Vickie Sands	Jeff Grone & Joe Grone
Acolytes	2/2 Keiziah Connell 2/9 Keiziah Connell 2/16 Keiziah Connell 2/23 Keiziah Connell	2/2 Joe Grone 2/9 Kolton Fischer 2/16 Delaney Johnson 2/23 Toni Thompson
Lay Readers	Bridgett Connell	Danita Hanson
Communion Steward	Bridgett Connell	Danita Hanson
Altar Guild	Karen Claussen Smith	Lynette Krie
Altar Flowers		Andrea Johnson
Coffee after Service	2/2 Bridgett Connell 2/9 Scott & Jean Morgan 2/16 Tina Boyle 2/23 Bridgett Connell	

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First

2/1 Loren Carr
2/8 Jean Morgan
2/9 Tristan Connell
2/12 Scott & Jean Morgan
2/12 Gerald & Barb Sands
2/14 Court & Darlene Roberts
2/15 Rett Hingst

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia

2/3 Warren Hanson
2/9 Alissa Thompson
2/11 Izac Reifenrath
2/14 Hart Vollers
2/18 JoAnn Hauptmann
2/19 Carolyn Alt
2/25 Josh Grone
2/26 Steve Martindale



From the Pastor's Keyboard...

Ash Wednesday, February 26th, is the first day of Lent. The 40 days of Lent (not including Sundays) represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. Jesus spent this time in fasting and prayer as a way to prepare himself for his ministry.

Since the year 323 A.D., when the Council of Nicaea was held, Lent has consisted of a 40 day period of fasting prior to Easter. Early Christians ate only one meal each day, in the early evening; and they refrained from eating meat and drinking wine. Later, Christians also abstained from eating eggs, dairy products and fat. Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) celebrations come from the tradition of emptying the home of ingredients such as butter, milk and eggs that would spoil and that were not supposed to be eaten during Lent. The tradition of eating pancakes on Fat Tuesday goes back to at least the middle ages.

The Lenten Season has traditionally been viewed as a time of preparation for Christians. Lent is a time in which we reflect on our lives and repent for our sins; a time in which we try to live more faithfully by spending time in prayer, fasting, and Bible study. In the early church, the period of Lent was an intense time of repentance, study and preparation for new believers who would be baptized on Easter Sunday. It was also a time for those who had committed serious sins to be reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to the fellowship of the church.

For us as individuals, Lent is a time when we are invited to look at ourselves, to confess our sins, and to turn to God in repentance. We recognize that we sin in thought, word and deed, by things we have done and things we have not done. We sin as we fail to discern God's will and to live according to God's will for our lives.

Through the years, the requirements of fasting and sacrifice have been relaxed. Yet, by observing the Lenten Season, as individuals and as a congregation, we are able to grow in faith and in faithfulness. Traditionally, Christians give up something for Lent. This can be a helpful discipline for us.

But there is also a benefit to taking something on as a way to observe a faithful Lent. Write letters to people who have touched you to thank them and let them know how much you appreciate them. Reach out to someone who has a special need. Visit someone who is ill or who is lonely. Share a meal with someone who usually eats alone. Offer support to someone who needs a friend. Apologize to someone you have hurt or offended in some way. Forgive someone who has offended you. Listen to Christian music. Spend time each day reading scripture or a daily devotional. Spend some time each day in prayer, not just talking to God, but listening to what God has to say to you. Take time to nourish your relationship with God.

Lent is a time of remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and entering into a deeper relationship with Him. I pray that this Lenten Season will be a fruitful one in which each of us will grow in our relationship with God in Christ, and with one another.

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 January 6, 2020. Present were Vickie Sands, Gloria Dowling, Richie Montieth, Denise Hingst, Chris Beach, Paul Boyle, Pastor Deb, and Bridgett Connell.

Financial reports were discussed. Motion by Denise to approve, seconded by Gloria; motion approved.

We need to remind people to fill out the attendance sheets at church.

We helped Bridgett fill in some missing information for the yearbook.

The bell and bell tower need to be inspected. Paul and Richie will look at it.

We discussed the open slots still remaining for coffee after services in 2020.

Motion to adjourn by Denise, seconded by Chris. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

Next council meeting is on February 3 at Concordia. (First council at 6:30, Joint council at 7:00, Concordia council at 7:30)

Joint Council Meeting Highlights

First Lutheran Council and Concordia Council met on January 6, 2020. Present were Vickie Sands, Gloria Dowling, Richie Montieth, Denise Hingst, Chris Beach, Paul Boyle, Grant Settje, Hart Vollers, Lee Johnson, Dustin Thompson, and Trisha Reifenrath, Carolyn Alt, Pastor Deb, and Bridgett Connell.

Devotions by Gloria D.

Joint council business:

Minutes from November's meeting were read and approved.

Pastor's report was read and discussed.

Both councils discussed their progress with call committees.

We discussed the issue of the print in the bulletins. It is not large enough for some people to read, but if it is made larger, we will use more paper. It was decided to go back to the previous size.

Closing prayer,

Meeting adjourned

Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

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

The Concordia Lutheran Church Council met Monday, January 6th at 6:30 pm at First Lutheran in Allen. Present were Pastor Deb, Grant Settje, Dustin Thompson, Hart Vollers, Lee Johnson, Carolyn Alt, Judy Martindale, Dawn Addison-Corbit and Trisha Reifenrath. Bridgett Connell was also present.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor's report was presented at Joint Council.

Grant called the meeting to order.

Election of council positions was made following a suggestion by Hart that the incoming members take the positions of the outgoing members. Discussion was held on this suggestion and all agreed that Carolyn Alt would take the President position and Judy Martindale would take over the Secretary duties. Other council positions will remain the same.

The secretary's report was approved.

Lee called attention to an error in a deposit from earlier in the year that has been corrected and also there appears to be a missing rent check from Allen. Dustin will see that this is looked into. Motion was made by Dustin and seconded by Trisha to approve treasurer's report. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- Call Committee update: Lynette and Bard Sands will need to meet to set up meeting with Kristen.
- The janitor position has been filled by Brooke Anderson
- Peg Anderson will be the new treasurer for Concordia Lutheran Church beginning January 2020.
- Audit committee needs 2 names for election
- Hart has had the furnace looked at again- should be okay for now.

New Business:

- Motion was made by Carolyn to approve Peg Anderson as the Financial Secretary. Judy seconded. All were in favor.
- Carolyn Alt was also approved to be authorized on the bank accounts.
- Discussion held on bulletin format and upcoming copier lease renewal. Carolyn will contact One Solution about copy counts allowed on current lease. We may want to increase numbers.
- Trisha will update council text group.
- Grant Settje and Mary Vollers names will be on the annual meeting ballot for audit committee.
- A schedule for 2020 Joint Council Devotions was agreed to by CLC council members:
February-Carolyn, April-Dustin, June-Hart, August-Trisha, October-Judy, December-Lee
- 2020 Budget was discussed with council tentatively approving for presentation at annual meeting. Dustin will contact Warren to get the end of year expense register before final approval is made.

Meeting was closed with the Lords' Prayer.

Next meeting will be at Concordia with Joint Council at 7:00 and Concordia Council at 7:30. Concordia is responsible for serving lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Martindale

Concordia Lutheran Annual Meeting

January 26th 2020

The Annual Meeting/Ministry Celebration was called to order by Carolyn Alt and Pastor Deb Valentine opened with prayer. Thank you's were extended to outgoing council members Grant Settje and Dawn Addison-Corbit. New members, Carolyn Alt and Judy Martindale were welcomed. Warren and Danita Hanson were thanked for their years of service as church treasurer and janitor, as they have retired from those positions.

We also welcomed Peg Anderson who is stepping into the treasurer position, as well as Brooke Anderson who has taken over the janitorial duties.

Peg Lutt conducted the elections of synod assembly delegates, head usher, audit committee and memorial committee. No more nominations were received from the floor so nominations ceased and ballots were presented as printed. Tellers were Hart Vollers, and Doug and Lynette Krie.

The meeting minutes from 2019 and the council highlights were reviewed. Annual meeting minutes had been approved at Feb 2019 meeting.

Pastor's report was reviewed and motion to approve was made by Mary Vollers with a 2nd by Amanda. Fisher. All in favor.

Pastor may need some help with updating member information going forward.

The Statistical Report was reviewed and motion to approve made by Betty Bothwell and 2nd by Peg Lutt. All in favor.

The Council Highlight Report was reviewed. New goals for 2020 will be established at Feb meeting. Peg Anderson made a motion to accept and Warren Hanson 2nd. All were in favor.

The organizational and financial reports were reviewed. Peg Anderson voiced concerns about budget for 2020 versus actual income for last year showing there would be a deficit. It was noted janitor salary will remain the same for 2020. There may be less expense with board of pensions as Pastor's Medicare is less expensive than the budgeted amount that is based on having health insurance for a potential new pastor. Lynette Krie also mentioned she and Lee Johnson had talked to bank about the buffer account that had not been used in enough years it was in danger of becoming a dormant account. A deposit was made to keep it active, so that money is still available if necessary.

A motion was made by Doug Krie and 2nd by Georgia Addison to accept all of these reports. Motion carried.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

The 135th Anniversary of Concordia will be sometime in 2020. Question put forth as to whether we should do something to celebrate and if so when and what. A potluck was suggested. Volunteers were asked to form a planning committee for this event. Pastor Deb volunteered to help and other committee members will be Lynette Krie, Brandi Settje, Alissa Thompson, and Andrea Johnson.

Hart Vollers gave an update on the furnace/air conditioning issues that have been experienced in past year. The units are old and inefficient and will likely needed attention in the near future. He has gotten a couple bids to replace with updated more energy efficient units and possibly add a 3rd air conditioning unit for basement. Current bid for replacing all 3 current furnaces and 2 air conditioning units and adding a 3rd a/c unit was in \$15,000 range. We need to plan ahead for that coming expense.

Election results were: Head Usher: Warren Hanson, Synod Delegates: Doug and Lynette Krie, Memorial Committee: Andrea Johnson, & Audit Committee: Grant Settje elected to 3 year term and Mary Vollers elected for 2 years to fill out Peter Brummel's term.

Council recommendations were to approve the 2020 budget and that the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes by approved at the Feb council meeting. Dawn Addison-Corbit made a motion to accept recommendations and motion was seconded by Mary Vollers. All were in favor.

Doug Krie made a motion to adjourn with a second by Warren Hanson. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Martindale

Ministry Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Council Meeting at CLC

February 3rd FLC 6:30 p.m.
Joint 7:00 p.m. CLC 7:30 p.m.

CLC Choir Practice

February 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class at FLC

February 5th 7:00-8:15 p.m.

FLC Annual Meeting

February 9th following worship

Pastor at Clergy Retreat

February 10th – 12th

FLC WELCA

February 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class at FLC

February 12th 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Worship Planning Meeting

February 18th at 6:00 p.m. at CLC

Confirmation Class at FLC

February 19th 7:00-8:15 p.m.

FLC Soup Supper

February 23rd 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline

February 24th

WOW – Women of the Word

February 24th 6:00 p.m.
at Parsonage

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26th at 7:00 p.m. at FLC
(No Confirmation Class)

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

FLC Soup Supper

February 23rd

4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to enjoy some warm
soup, yummy sandwiches,
and good fellowship.



Worship Planning Meeting



February 18th

6:00 p.m. at CLC

FLC WELCA

February 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Lesson: Pastor Deb

Ministry Opportunities

The Nebraska Synod Journey is typically a six or seven-day experience held during the summers when there isn't an ELCA Youth Gathering, and it's open to youth who have completed grades 8-12 along with their adult leaders. The next Journey will be held July 6-12, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee. Journey participants will leave Nebraska on Monday, July 6 in motor coaches and travel south to Nashville, Tennessee, learning from our neighbors there about how God is already at work in the community. Participants will be housed at a location to be finalized. Transportation, lodging, most activities and most meals will be covered by the registration fee. Each participating congregation is asked to register one adult leader for every six youth. Adult leaders must be at least 21 years of age.

Registration Rates and Information:

- Early bird (submitted on or before February 15, 2020): \$495
- Regular registration (February 16-March 15, 2020): \$525

Let Pastor know by February 10th
if your student wants to attend.

We will plan some fundraisers to help cover the cost.

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. More details will follow.

CLC Choir Practice



February 5th
6:00 p.m.



February 26th (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 p.m. at FLC

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. (Easer Service) at FLC

WOW

WOMEN OF THE WORD

The Women's Bible Study at the parsonage will be using the book *Women of the Bible 52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups* by Jean E. Syswerda. Please let Pastor Deb know if you would like to order the book so you can be a part of the study group, or if you would like to get it to use it on your own. Currently the books are \$12.29 plus tax.

Support the Allen Backpack Program

Save your HyVee receipts! Put in the jar at FLC



February 24th

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



Spring Gatherings 2020



“Creation and Praise”

Registration 8:30 a.m. — Program 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.”—1 Timothy 4:4-5 NIV

Offering designated as follows: 50% Churchwide Women's Organization, 25% Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, and 25% Tri-Faith Initiative Garden Project

Spring Gatherings 2020 Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State + Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Congregation/City _____

Special Needs _____

Please mark which Spring Gathering you are attending:

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date	Conference	City	Deadline
Send form and \$18.00 payment to: Gwen Edwards, NSWO Treasurer 3402 Castile Drive Bellevue, NE 68123-1327 nswow.treasurer@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> March 7	Central	Stromsburg	February 29
	<input type="checkbox"/> March 14	Midlands	Fremont	March 7
	<input type="checkbox"/> March 21	Southeast	DeWitt	March 14
	<input type="checkbox"/> March 28	So. Prairie	Hastings	March 21
	<input type="checkbox"/> April 4	High Plains	North Platte	March 28
	<input type="checkbox"/> April 18	Metro East	Omaha	April 11
	<input type="checkbox"/> April 25	Northeast	Dakota City	April 18



Registration fee is transferable, not refundable

Humor, Congratulations, & Thank You's



Thank You

Concordia Lutheran

Thank you for sending college care box to me. It was very much appreciated before finals! I shared with my friends and roommate and they thought it was pretty cool of my church to do that! Thanks again for the thoughts, prayers and snacks to get me through finals week!

Izac Reifenvath

Concordia Lutheran,

Thank you for sending the college boxes every year. I love receiving it because it gives me a little more motivation throughout finals week! My favorite thing to do is share it with my roommate and friends

When they pick out a snack, I tell them that my church sends it to all of the college students. They think it's an awesome idea and remind me how lucky I am to go to Concordia Lutheran. Thank you for the thoughts, prayers, and snacks to help me get through finals week!

-Shelby Kne

Thank you seems, such a small response, for the wonderful gift (sack) for Christmas! It was misplaced and I just got it now, so my holiday spirit goes on and on! Again, anyone who made this gift happen, I thank you.

In Christ's Love, Frieda Bowman

A huge thank you to my family & church family for all the prayers, concerns shown me before my surgery and sent. A big thanks to Pastor Deb. for her visit and prayers. Also to the Sunshine Committee for their visit and beautiful Christmas ornaments. ~~By~~ all is greatly appreciated. God Blessing to all.
Love, Lidya

Contact Info

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Concordia Lutheran Church

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First Lutheran Church

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