

Concordia News

Large Print Edition

A newsletter for members, families, and friends of Concordia
Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association

December 2009

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Words from Pastor Bruce

We find ourselves in the season of Advent. It is a season that is largely skipped over by the broader culture in the rush towards Christmas. Traditionally, it has been a season of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. It has been a time where the believer asks himself or herself the question, “Am I prepared for the coming of Christ?” In ancient times the response to the depressed mood of the increasingly short and cold days has been to respond by consuming. The response of the early Christians was to do the opposite of consuming. The hope was that by living a life of self-denial that they would be filled more fully by the coming of Christ. Their hope was to be filled by that which gives life rather than that which would succumb to moths and rust.

As Lutherans we believe that God comes to us with or without our preparations for Christ’s arrival. Perhaps, however, we have

rejected too much of the ancient Advent spiritual traditions of fasting and prayer. Perhaps we could all benefit by “tithing” in a different way; spending just 10 % of the time we spend shopping in scripture reading and prayer.

Christmas is coming. The question for us is: Will we be fed only by that which broadens our waistline or will we be fed with the food that nourishes us spiritually as well?

Let us worship together this Advent season as we gather to hear the great prophecies out of the Old Testament which foretell the coming of the Christ child. Gathering together as a community of faith and placing ourselves where God promises to meet us (in Word and Sacrament) we look forward to Christ being born in our hearts anew this year.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Bruce

**Concordia Lutheran Church
Concordia Cemetery Association
6637 80th Ave. North
Glyndon MN 56547**



Meeting: December 8, 2009 1:30 pm

Bible leader: Group

Lunch: Delores Hagene



Cookie Servers

Dec. 6 Irene Olson

Dec. 13 Barb Grover

Dec. 20 WELCA

Dec. 27 Polly Hanson



Concordianews.org

At Kids Corner, the theme for December is “The Three Kings.” Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

Do you have a family member or friend who would like to be able to read this newsletter in large print? Each month a large print edition of *Concordia News* like this one is available in the Newsletter section of our website.



If you know of someone who is in the hospital or would like a home visit please let me know.

I can be reached at 218-329-2245

Thank you! *Pastor Bruce*

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

Norman Vincent Peale

Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

By Joanna Fuchs



Take a heap of child-like
wonder that opens up our eyes
To the unexpected gifts in life—
Each day a sweet surprise.

Mix in fond appreciation for the
people whom we know;

Like festive Christmas candles, each one has a special glow.

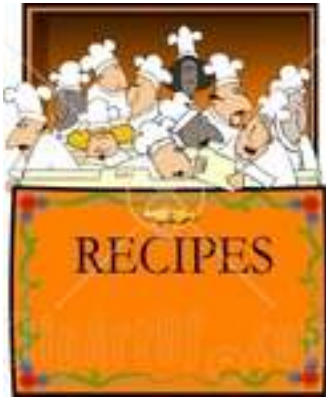
Add some giggles and some laughter, A dash of Christmas food,
(Amazing how a piece of pie improves our attitude!)

Stir it all with human kindness; wrap it up in love and peace,
Decorate with optimism, and our joy will never cease.

If we use this healthy recipe, we know we will remember
To be in the Christmas spirit, Even when it's not December.

Find more poems at

<http://www.poemsource.com>



Recipe of the Month Stuffed Mushrooms

From allrecipes.com

Ingredients

12 whole fresh mushrooms
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Clean mushrooms with a damp paper towel. Carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding tough end of stems.
- Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and chopped mushroom stems to the skillet. Fry until any moisture has disappeared, taking care not to burn garlic. Set aside to cool.
- When garlic and mushroom mixture is no longer hot, stir in cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, black pepper, onion powder and cayenne pepper. Mixture should be very thick. Using a little spoon, fill each mushroom cap with a generous amount of stuffing. Arrange the mushroom caps on prepared cookie sheet.
- Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the mushrooms are piping hot and liquid starts to form under caps.

Donations

From the Cemetery Association:

In Memory of Glenn Kassenborg:

- Aron Kassenborg

In Memory of Jerome Shawstad:

- Donald & Evangeline Johnson

Grave Marker Repair Donations given by:

- Ida Lewis
- Marietta Gunderson
- Merle & Marge Bekkerus *in memory of the Bekkerus Family*
- Lois Jensen *in memory of the Engesetter Family*
- Margret Kragnes *in memory of Alice Grover and her piano lessons given to the Kragnes children. Alice lives on through their love for music*





Thank You to Andy Ulven

(grandson of Doris Kassenborg) for mowing and trimming stones at the Concordia Cemetery this year.

Thank You to Val Hagene

for mowing and trimming the Leif Erickson Cemetery again this year.

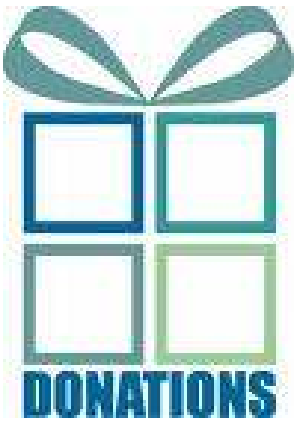


Thank You

...to all who contributed food and worked at the Center Mall Bazaar in November. It was a great success.

Thanks to all those who helped with the pork loin dinner in November!





Memorials and Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association:

Make checks out to the association and mail to:
Ray Johnson
7333 70 St N
Glyndon, MN 56547

General Fund:

Make checks out to Concordia Lutheran Church and mail to:
Lloyd Gunderson
105 3 St N
Moorhead, MN, 56560

Concordia Newsletter

Make checks out to Concordia News and mail to:
Valdemar Hagene
6756 70 Ave N
Glyndon, MN 56547



Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.

-Unknown-

Bits and Pieces

“Gledelig Jul”

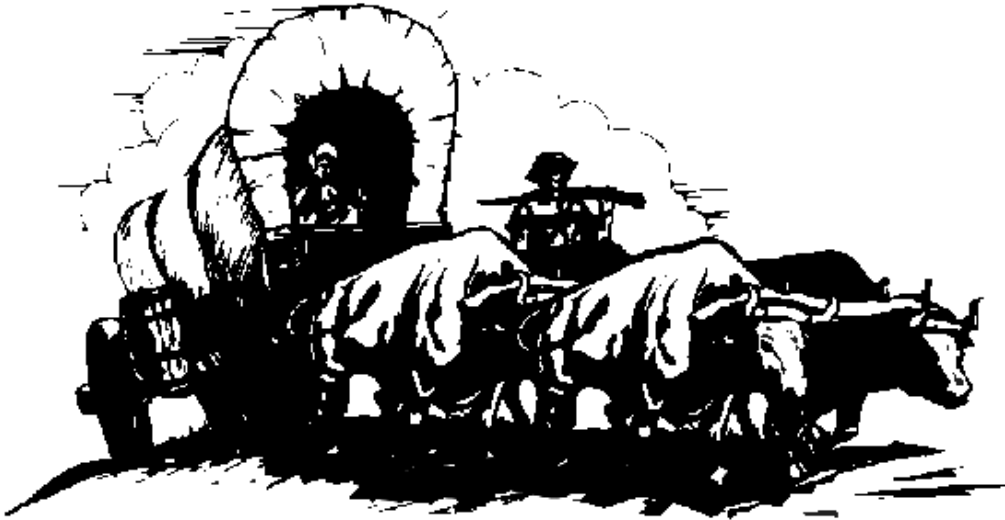
Nisser have a very special place in the traditional Christmas celebrations in Norway. These “little people” were once only whispered about in fear, but over the centuries it became clear they were protectors of farm folk.

Legend says that these red-capped elves came down from their mountain forest homes for the 12 days of Christmas and, if treated well, stayed on the farm to bring good luck to the people who lived there and good health to their animals. Since those early times, the farm children have set out a bowl of *Julegrøt* (Christmas porridge) in the barn as a treat for their nisse on Christmas Eve. If the porridge is forgotten or isn't up to the nisse's standards, he will play tricks on the farmer and his family, or leave the family unprotected and move to another farm!

Over the years, nisser have come to represent the best of Norwegian heritage. During WWII, the red knitted cap, or *lue*, was a national symbol of the resistance to the German occupation. When the Germans figured out what they meant, the caps were banned. The caps were the first things that came out of the closet when the war was won – and proud Norwegian nisser wear them, too!

There have been quite a few well-documented cases of a nisse who became so fond of the farmer and his family that he joined them when they immigrated to America. Don't be surprised if you catch a glimpse of one of these wise old pranksters or see their tiny footprints in the snow along the Buffalo this Christmas season. Rumor has it you can sometimes catch a glimpse of one or two peeking out of the bell tower at Concordia, and some report hearing their Norwegian whispers coming from the balcony at Christmas services!





The Journey to the Buffalo

By Levi Thortvedt

Excerpts from the serial published in the *Moorhead Daily News* in 1938

St. Paul made quite a showing to me, lying on a high sandstone bluff. It shown yellowish with the monster buildings on the top of the bluff. It was a beautiful site. The big river with steamboats, two were at the docks, and one was steaming up the river towards the high bridge – I tell you it was a sight for me! We had to stop here a while and make arrangements with the bridge man. It was a toll bridge. It cost twenty-five cents per wagon, ten cents per head of cattle and five cents per head of sheep. Chickens in their crates went free.

Crossing the bridge we were right in the busy streets of St. Paul, which were very narrow with tall buildings on both sides. I wondered how we could get through here with all our contraptions,

six covered wagons and a lot of cattle and sheep. Luckily there were no street cars to be found in 1870. The people of St. Paul did not take much notice of us, evidently it was not the first moving outfit that had passed through their streets. We got through in fine shape, although it seemed to take quite a while. We were now headed for St. Anthony, which was a little town on the northeast side of the Mississippi river, just across from Minneapolis.

Christmas Trees

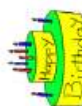
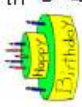


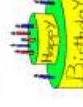




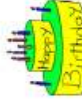


Evergreen trees have had special meaning to people for millennia. In the depths of winter, their green boughs remind people that spring will come again, and so decorating with them became part of the celebration of the winter solstice.

Germany is generally credited with introducing the Christmas tree as a Christian tradition, and Martin Luther is said to have been the first to add lights, in the form of candles, to the tree.

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  Valdemar Hagene	2  Clinton Babolian Gordy Kassenborg	3	4	5
6 BLUE  9:30am Coffee 10:30am Church	8 WELCA 1:30 pm 		10	11	12	
13 BLUE 9:30am Coffee 10:30am Church	15	16  Paul Decker  Don & Evangeline Johnson	17	18	19	
20 BLUE 9:30am Coffee 10:30am Church 	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas 10:30 Service 	26	
27 WHITE 9:30am Coffee 10:30am Church	29  Kristine Lynne	30	31 New Year's Eve			



The Concordia News is published monthly by Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association.

The Large Print Edition is available only on the Concordia News Website, <http://www.concordianews.org>.

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Deadline for submission of material is the 20th of the month.

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