

Concordia News – Large Print

November 2012

Volume 7

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

Number 11



ISSN 2152-3339

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Dear Members and Friends of Concordia Lutheran:

The following excerpt comes from Dr. Mark Roberts theological reflections on Thanksgiving found at the following link:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/>

A Season of Thanksgiving: Why Start Now?

“I’d like to spend the next few days focusing on Thanksgiving. That’s right, Thanksgiving. Yes, I know that the official American holiday falls on the fourth Thursday in November, not the third Monday. So, yes, I know that I’m a week early. But I’d like to begin to offer some thoughts on Thanksgiving.

Why start a conversation about Thanksgiving now? I do not mean in any way to undermine the specialness of the traditional holiday. I think it’s great that the United States continues to set apart a day a year for giving thanks. And I think it’s doubly great that most of us still believe that Thanksgiving is a day for actually giving thanks to God, not just a time for feeling nebulously thankful while filling our faces

with a Turkey dinner and watching football on TV. My hope is that by writing about Thanksgiving a week and a half early, I might actually enhance your celebration of Thanksgiving, not detract from it. Thus, today's post will be the first of several on giving thanks.

There is a danger, I believe, in identifying one day a year as Thanksgiving Day. It's the danger of implying that thanks is due on this day, but not on others. We face a similar danger, for example, when we designate the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Shouldn't children honor their mothers more than once a year? Similarly, shouldn't we be thankful more often than once a year on the fourth Thursday of November?

As a Christian, I would argue that giving thanks to God is important because it honors God. I would also argue that Scripture calls for consistent gratitude among God's people. But, there is also case for gratitude that doesn't depend on biblical theology. In fact, it appeals to common sense and even self interest. To put the matter bluntly: Gratitude will improve your life.

Gratitude magnifies our experience of the good things in life, enabling us to enjoy them more thoroughly. Gratitude also helps us to endure the hard things in life with dignity, perhaps

even with humor. Gratitude is like savoring a fine meal, enjoy every bite, rather than racing through a meal as if it's some sort of race.”

As Pastor Roberts suggests, gratitude is not an annual phenomenon for Christians but rather is a daily event. When we awake in the morning instead of perishing during the night, we have reason for gratitude. When we lie down at night on our own bed in a safe and comfortable environment we have the basis for giving thanks. Gratitude is part and parcel of what it means to be a Christian. The most obvious, and sometimes most easily ignored reason is not for what we have but is for Who we have (in our lives). God gave us the greatest gift of all on the cross and in the empty tomb, his son Jesus Christ. He has given God back to us not as a fearsome and wrathful judge which, without Jesus, is all we would get or deserve, but as Abba, Father.

Perhaps practicing gratitude a little more each day as we approach Thanksgiving would be good for us. I am sure our generous and gracious heavenly father would not mind either.

Have a blessed day, or perhaps even days, of thanks this month.

God bless,

Pastor Bruce



Thankoffering Service

Tuesday, November 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Fryin' Pan



Cookie Servers

NOVEMBER

Nov 4 Regina Hanson
Nov 11 Germaine Gress
Nov 18 Mavis Wang
Nov 25 Phylis Nelson

DECEMBER

Dec 2 Irene Olson
Dec 9 Sally Horpedahl
Dec 16 Orpha Hoelstad
Dec 23 Delores Hagene
Dec 30 Becky Jegtvig



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*

Concordianews.org “The Prophet Isaiah” is the subject for Kids Corner in November.

Announcements and Assignments

BAD WEATHER – BAD ROADS

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

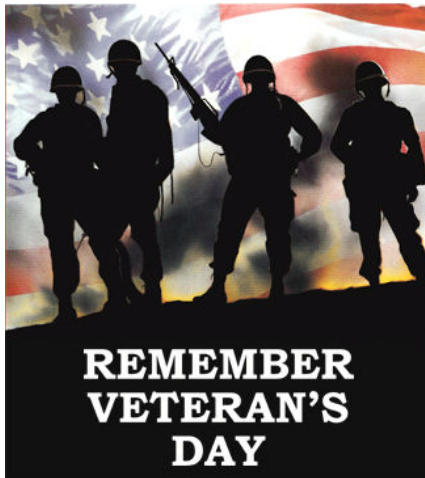


If the weather or roads are bad, check WDAY Channel 6 television or WDAY radio 970. We'll notify the stations so they can broadcast church cancellations.



ELECTION DAY

Tuesday November 6



VETERAN'S DAY

Sunday, November 11

Presidential Thoughts about our Veterans

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.



~President Harry S. Truman



The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

~ President Thomas Jefferson

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.



~President George Washington

With Our Thanks

Donations

Concordia General Fund

In Memory of Val Hagene

Osie Juve

Kjell & Orpha Hoelstad

Caroline Edwards

Tom & Sherry Watt

Ralph & Barb Grover

Lenny & Vonnie Swanson

Concordia Cemetery

In Memory of Val Hagene

Lloyd Gunderson Myron Hagene

Margie Brantner Irene Olson

Lois Jensen Ida Busby

Dorothy Powers Donald Johnson

Doris Kassenborg Helen Kassenborg

Verne & Carol Wik Bill & Kari Kinsley

Terry & Joy Eidem Dick & Mavis Wang

With Our Thanks

Concordia Cemetery

In Memory of Val Hagene (cont'd)

Al & Genelle Sather

Harold & Sally Horpedahl

Wescott Tommerdahl

Duane & Joan Erickson

LeRoy & Alice Horpedahl

Gordon & Sue Kassenborg

Dalan & Diane Rasmussen

Marietta Gunderson

Marvin & Jean Jacobsen

In Memory of Glenn Kassenborg

Kirby & Candace Kassenborg

In Memory of Partyke Family

Paul & Jenifer Partyke

Donation

Jane & Ted Bekkerus

With Our Thanks

Concordia News

In memory of Val Hagene

Lloyd Gunderson

Jim and Hazel Haarstad

Bonita Lilly

In Memory of Doris Eidem

Ella Swanson

In Memory of Lavonne Akers

Sylvia and Walter Teigen

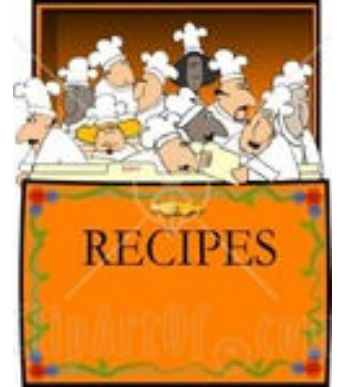


Thank you to everyone who helped make our **Fall Dinner** a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

~Barb Grover

Recipe of the Month

Sweet Potato Casserole



Ingredients

5 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced

1/3 cup honey

1 large egg

1 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp nutmeg

1/8 tsp ginger

1/4 tsp salt

1 tb dark brown sugar

1/3 cup chopped pecans

Directions

- Steam or boil sweet potatoes
- Whip potatoes until smooth, let cool slightly
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Coat 8 x 8 pan with cooking spray

Recipe of the Month

- Add honey, ½ tsp cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and salt to potatoes. Mix well.
 - Spread sweet potato mixture evenly in baking pan.
 - Mix brown sugar, pecans and ½ tsp cinnamon together in a bowl and sprinkle on the sweet potato mixture .
 - Bake until it starts to brown around the edges, approx. 45 minutes.
-

Happy Thanksgiving!

Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

**Be thankful when you don't know something,
for it gives you the opportunity to learn.**

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

**Be thankful for your limitations,
because they give you opportunities for improvement.**

Be thankful for each new challenge,

Recipe of the Month

because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

**Be thankful when you're tired and weary,
because it means you've made a difference.**

**It's easy to be thankful for the good things.
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who
are also thankful for the setbacks.**

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.

**Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,
and they can become your blessings.**



11-23-2000

**NICE WORK FELLAS ... IT'S BEEN A LONG
WHILE NOW AND THEY ARE STILL REMEMBERING
TO THANK ME**

The First Norwegians to See the Buffalo

This is the continuation of the story that began in the October issue of Concordia News. It follows the quest of A. O. Kragnes, Andreas Kassenborg, Tarje Grover and Osmund Homme to visit the Buffalo River in 1869.

The men decided that the next morning, A.O. and Andreas would set out south in the hope of finding the ox cart trail. Tarje and Osmund would remain behind with the supplies. It was the men's hope that A.O. and Andreas would be able to convince a driver to come and pick up Tarje and Osmund and all their supplies and bring them back to Alexandria. Failing that, perhaps they could hitch a ride to Alexandria, acquire horses. and return for Tarje and Osmund themselves.

One day, and then two went by. Osmund began to wonder aloud if he and Tarje should strike out on their own. Tarje probably had the same thoughts, but he really didn't need to hear them spoken, and he didn't want to discuss them. On a treeless prairie, there was no shade from the sun, and no protection from the rain. Hordes of mosquitos were likely their constant companions. What did they do for water? How many days and nights did Osmund and

Bits and Pieces

Tarje spend alone on the prairie? Questions without answers, but we know it must hae been troubling and difficult!

Finally they heard the creak of ox cart wheels, It appeared on the horizon. A.O. and Andreas had convinced one of the *Meti* to drive his cart over the virgin prairie – for more than the cost of all 4 of their train tickets from Houston to Alexandria.

The group spent one last night on the prairie. They packed the ox cart and in the morning headed back toward Alexandria.

Our four adventurers had expected to have to pay for the lost horses, draining their wallets and forcing them to return to Houston County. Imagine their relief when they saw their 6 fine steeds in the corral next to the livery stable! The horses had walked home!

When the stable owner saw the 4 men, he said it was good to see them; everyone thought they were probably dead. The Norwegians asked why no one had set out to find them. They were a little taken aback when he replied that these things happened, and someone eventually came across the dead bodies and buried them. The Norwegians expressed their relief on finding the horses had returned home safely, and explained they would have to discuss if or how many of them would restart the journey. The livery owner said the horses would be available for the same rent, of course. This irritated our four heroes; they had already paid for the

Bits and Pieces

full trip once. 160 years later, its easy to see the liveryman's point. He'd given his best horses to travelers so foolish they didn't stake the horses on the first night on the trail. Even allowing them to re-rent them probably seemed mighty generous to him!

Supplies had dwindled, much cash had been spent. Tarje volunteered to return to Houston on the next train. A.O. and Andreas determined to make the trip to the valley. If Osmund Homme joined them or returned home with Tarje is not clear.

There had been great interest in the party's "journey of discovery." No doubt sunburned and full of mosquito bites, Tarje apparently made it home from the train station without being noticed. Alex said that his father stayed on the farm until his friends A.O. and Andreas returned. None of them ever spoke about the debacle on the prairie.

Andreas and A.O. met with Probstfield and found high ground along the Buffalo. When the Thortvedt party arrived in Clay County, R.M. showed them land far south of that which Kassenborg and Kragnes had indicated they wanted to claim.

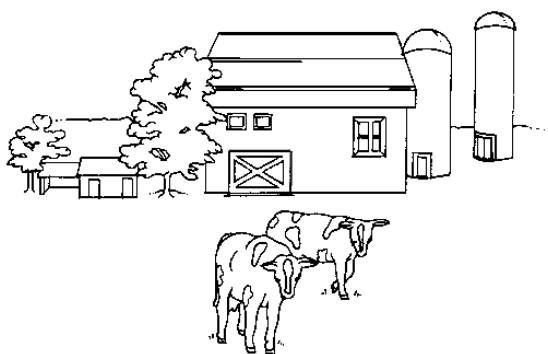
A.O. would return in a couple of years with Torgrim Morken. They shared a cabin while they made things ready for their families to join them on their adjoining homesteads. Andreas remained in

Bits and Pieces

Houston County until 1875, when the railroad had reached Moorhead.

Tarje bought Ole Midgarden's homestead when Ole returned to Norway in 1874. As a result, he lived in the area of the original Buffalo River settlers, miles from his good friends A.O. and Andreas.

During the terrible flood of 1896, Kassenborg Point became an island, and Andreas' farm remained high and dry. A. O. went round to his neighbors inviting them to wait for the waters to recede on his homeplace, which also was not touched by the flood waters. The two of them certainly had found the high ground next to the Buffalo ... on their 1869 visit to the Valley!



This year marks the 150th anniversary of **The Homestead Act**, which became law in 1862. It opened millions of acres of federal land for settlement. Farmers had to remain on their claim for 5 years and make specific improvements to receive permanent title.

The Homestead Act was a key pathway to farm ownership along the Buffalo River. In fact, nationally Norwegians homesteaded more land than any other ethnic group.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

WELCA

November , 1:30

Birthdays

November 1 Alene Sladky

November 9 Neil Hanson

November 10 Martin Luther

November 11` Ruth Farabee

Anniversaries

November 26 Kjell & Orpha Hoelstad

Election Day

Tuesday, November 6

MN Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Veterans Day

Sunday, November 11

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 22

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ISSN 2152-3339

The large print edition of Concordia News is only available on-line.

To submit an item for the newsletter:

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

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



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