



Concordia News

December 2012



Volume 7

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

Number 12



Dear Members and Friends
of Concordia Lutheran:

At the heart of Christian understanding of Christmas is the incarnation: God taking on human form and being born a baby. However, the Christian view of the events around the time of the winter solstice is but one of many. The pagan understanding is very different and much

older. The following excerpt is taken from Wikipedia and is particularly relevant to those of Germanic/Scandinavian descent:

“Yule is attested early in the history of the Germanic peoples; from the 4th century Gothic language it appears in the month name *fruma jūleis*, and, in the 8th century, the English historian Bede wrote that the Anglo-Saxon calendar included the month’s *geola* or *giuli* corresponding with either modern December or December and January.

While the Old Norse month name *ylir* is similarly attested, the Old Norse corpus also contains numerous references to an event by the Old Norse form of the name, *jól*. In chapter 55 of the Prose Edda book *Skáldskaparmál*, different names for the gods are given. One of the names provided is “Yule-beings.” A work by the skald *Eyvindr skáldaspillir* that uses the term is then quoted, which reads “again we have produced Yule-being’s feast [mead of poetry], our rulers’ eulogy, like a bridge of masonry.” In addition, one of the numerous names of Odin is *Jólnir*, referring to the event.

Saga of Hákon the Good credits King Haakon I of Norway with the Christianization of Norway, as well as rescheduling the date of Yule to coincide with Christian celebrations held at the time. The saga states that when Haakon arrived in Norway he was confirmed a Christian, but since the land was still altogether heathen and they retained their practices, Haakon hid his Christianity to receive the help of “great chieftains.” In time, Haakon had a law passed that established that Yule celebrations were to take place at the same time as when the Christians held their celebrations, “and at that time everyone was to have ale for the celebration with a measure of grain, or else pay fines, and had to keep the holiday while the ale lasted.”

Yule had previously been celebrated on midwinter night for three nights, according to the saga. Haakon planned that when he had solidly established himself and held power over the whole country, he would then “have the gospel preached.” According to the saga, the result of this was that his popularity caused many to allow themselves to be baptized, and some people stopped making sacrifices. Haakon spent most of this time in Trondheim, Norway. When Haakon believed that he wielded enough power, he requested a bishop and other priests from England, and they came to Norway. Upon their arrival, “Haakon made it known that he would have the gospel preached in the whole country.” The saga continues describing the reactions of various regional things as they differ the matter to one another.

A description of “heathen” Yule practices is provided (notes are Hollander’s own):

It was ancient custom that when sacrifice was to be made, all farmers were to come to the heathen temple and bring along with them the food they needed while the feast lasted. At this feast all were to take part of the drinking of ale. Also all kinds of livestock were killed in connection with it, horses also; and all the blood from them was called *hlaut* [sacrificial blood], and *hlautbolli*, the vessel holding the blood; and *hlautteinar*, the sacrificial twigs [*aspergills*]. These were fashioned like sprinklers, and with them were to be smeared all over with blood the pedestals of the idols and also the walls of the temple within and without; and likewise the men present were to be sprinkled with blood. But the meat of the animals was to be boiled and served as food at the banquet. Fires were to be lighted in the middle of the temple floor, and kettles hung over them. The sacrificial beaker was to be borne around the fire, and he who made the feast and was chieftain, was to bless the beaker as well as all the sacrificial meat.

The narrative continues that toasts were to be drunk. The first toast was to be drunk to Odin “for victory and power to the king”, the second to the gods Njörðr and Freyr “for good harvests and for peace”, and thirdly a beaker was to be drunk to the king himself. In addition, toasts were drunk to the memory of departed kinsfolk. This toast was called “*minni*” [memorial toast].

The *Svarfdæla* saga records a story in which a berserker put off a duel until three days after Yule to honor the sanctity of the holiday. The Grettis Saga refers to Yule as a time of “greatest mirth and joyance among men.” This saga is set soon after Iceland converted to Christianity and identifies Yule with Christmas: “No Christian man is wont to eat meat this day [Yule Eve], because that on the morrow is the first day of Yule,” says she, “wherefore must men first fast today.”

May you and yours have a happy Jul and more importantly a blessed Christmas.

Contents

Page

Words from the Pastor	1
Announcements & Assignments	2
With Our Thanks	3
Bits and Pieces	4
Community Calendar	5
Envelope Page	6

God bless,
Pastor Bruce

Announcements and Assignments



Date: Tuesday, December 11
Time: 1:30



Cookie Servers

- December 2 Irene Olson
- December 9 Sally Horpedahl
- December 16 Orpha Hoelstad
- December 23 Delores Hagene
- December 30 Becky Jegtvig
- January 6 Kathy Krogstad
- January 13 Orpha Hoelstad
- January 20 Delores Hagene
- January 27 Becky Jegtvig

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.



Concordianews.org



"Isaiah's Prophecies About the Messiah" is the subject for Kids Corner in December. Kids Corner is located in the Congregation section of our website.

Christmas Cards

Lena went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Has it come to this, then? Well, give me 31 Catholic, 5 Methodist ones, 35 Lutheran, and 3 United Church of Christ."



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.



Heating Season is upon us!

Donations to Concordia's general fund will help meet those costs and will be greatly appreciated!

Donate Food Items
During December

Many people in our area cannot afford a traditional meal for the holidays. During December, why not make a special effort to drop off canned goods in the donation box in the narthex?



If you're shopping at Hornbacher's, add \$1, \$3 or \$5 to your bill to help Great Plains Foodbank make the holidays special for those in need.

Annual Concordia Report

Make sure to submit all financial information that needs to be submitted for the Annual Report, to Karolynn Decker by January 15, 2013.



Donations

Concordia General Fund

In Memory of Doris Eidem
Stan & Lorraine DeJong
Ann Hovedestad
Kjell & Orpha Hoelstad
Osie Juve
Carolyn Edwards
Marvin & Jean Jacobson
Bruce & Kathy Krogstad

Concordia Cemetery

In Memory of Doris Eidem
Gerald & Beverly Bjelde
Duane & Joan Erickson
Harlan & Linda Sauter
Ray & JoLyn Johnson
Gordon & Sue Kassenborg
Wayne Borgen Regina Hanson
Lois Jensen Helen Kassenborg
Jean Oberg Wescott Tommerdahl
Verne & Carol Wik Nancy Pearson
Marcelle Buck Marilyn Fuchs
Mark & Reny Storo Myron Hagene
Doris Kassenborg Jorgee Mjolsness
Irene Olson Dick & Mavis Wang

Concordia News

In Memory of Harold and Lucilla Anderson
Harold Anderson Family

Donation
Gloria Gorder Thomas



the advent season. Thank you to all.

Thank you to everyone who helped trim the church for Christmas. Thank you to Kathy and Orpha for the program of songs and the festive coffee afterward. It was a special beginning of

Recipe of the Month Ginger Nuts



Ingredients
1 cup + 1 TB butter
½ cup light syrup
1 cup powdered sugar
1 dollop cream
1 ¾ cups wheat flour
2 teaspoons ground cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup finely chopped almonds

Directions

- Bring the butter, syrup, cream, and icing sugar to a boil.
- Cool and stir in the remaining ingredients.
- Knead the dough thoroughly and roll into cylinders about an inch and a half in diameter.
- Put in a cool place until the next day.
- Cut thin slices of the dough and bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

Christmas Fun Facts

- Canada is the largest exporter of Christmas trees.
- Coca-Cola made the concept of Santa Claus popular in America.
- The Christmas carol "I Saw Momma Kissing Santa Claus" was made famous by Jimmy Boyd when he was just 12 years old.
- Christmas lights were invented by the American Ralph E. Morris.
- Silver and gold are the popular Christmas colors after red and green.



Music of the Christmas Season



Away in a Manger

Silver Bells

Jingle Bells

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Feliz Navidad

Frosty the Snowman

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Silent Night

Little Drummer Boy

Up on the Housetop

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Deck the Halls

The First Noel

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Santa Baby

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

O Christmas Tree












Sleigh Ride



Old Norwegian Saying: *Det kom som julekvleden på kjerringa*

It came as suddenly as Christmas Eve to the housewife...

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 BLUE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship Communion Clinton Babolion Jordan K'berg 	3 	4	5	6	7	8
9 BLUE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship CHRISTMAS POTLUCK	10	11  WELCA 1:30	12	13	14	15
16 BLUE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship  Paul Decker	17  Debora Higene	18	19	20 	21	22
23 BLUE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27	28	29  Kristine Lynde
30 WHITE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	31 NEW YEARS EVE 					

Concordia News

Remove from mailing list: _____

Add to mailing list: _____

Change of address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____ @ _____

Mail to: Sylvia Teigen, 915 4th Avenue South, Moorhead MN 56560

Please clip the upper portion of this page and mail with any changes.

You can also visit our website at: <http://www.concordianews.org> and click on "Newsletter" to read the current or past issues of Concordia News in regular or large print, change your address, sign up to receive the newsletter by mail, or request an email notification when each newsletter appears on the website.

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

Concordia Newsletter Staff

Editors: Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen

Treasurer: Karolynn Decker

Web Edition: Alene Sladky

Articles, announcements, acknowledgements, photos, etc. should be given to the editor.

To submit an item for the newsletter:

E-mail: news@concordianews.org

Write: Karolynn Teigen-Decker
915 4th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560

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

Concordia Lutheran Church/Cemetery Assoc.

6637 80th Avenue North

Glyndon, MN. 56547

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.concordianews.org

**You are always welcome at
Concordia Lutheran Church**

Handicap Accessible

Sunday Worship:

Coffee Hour: 9:00 a.m

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Communion: 1st Sunday of the month

Concordia Women of the ELCA:

Second Tuesday: 1:30 p.m.

Pastor:

Bruce Krogstad

Office: 218-233-0459

Cell: 218-329-2245

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOORHEAD, MN
PERMIT 384



December 2012