

Concordia News – Large Print

December 2012

Volume 7

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

Number 12



ISSN 2152-3339

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Words from Pastor Bruce	2
Announcements	7
With Our Thanks	10
Recipe of the Month	12
Bits and Pieces	13
Dates to Remember	16
Acknowledgements	17



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 jiuileis*, 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 *ýlir* 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* (representative governing bodies).

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.”

From Pastor Bruce

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

God bless,

Pastor Bruce



The Real Reason

Excitement and joy are filling the air;

The lights add special decor.

We're shopping for Christmas gifts everywhere,

But are gifts what Christmas is for?

The wreaths and the trees and the parties

Aren't what we need to convey;

It's the birth of our Savior, Jesus,

The real reason for this holiday.

Announcements and Assignments



Date: Tuesday, December 11

Time: 1:30



Cookie Servers

DECEMBER

Dec 2 Irene Olson

Dec 9 Sally Horpedahl

Dec 16 Orpha Hoelstad

Dec 23 Delores Hagene

Dec 30 Becky Jegtvig

January

January 6 Kathy Krogstad

January 13 Orpha Hoelstad

January 20 Delores Hagene

January 27 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

“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.

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!

Annual Concordia Report

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



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.



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."

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

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

With Our Thanks

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

With Our Thanks

In Memory of Doris Eidem (cont'd)

Jorgee Mjolsness

Irene Olson

Dick & Mavis Wang

Concordia News

In Memory of Harold and Lucilla Anderson

Harold Anderson Family

Donation

Gloria Gorder Thomas

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 the advent season. Thank you to all.



Christmas Fun Facts



- Canada is the largest exporter of Christmas trees.
- Coca-Cola made the concept of Santa Claus popular in America.

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 Haiku

almost Christmas
through the evergreens
clear blue sky

Music of the Christmas Season

F	D	O	Y	O	U	H	E	A	R	W	H	A	T	I	H	E	A	R	Q	V	I	Q	O	Q	S
L	Q	E	J	W	F	Y	R	M	D	J	O	Y	T	O	T	H	E	W	O	R	L	D	F	G	Y
J	U	T	C	Y	E	D	R	M	W	H	S	B	I	T	G	B	O	L	D	Q	Q	H	Q	N	Y
J	V	N	U	K	V	A	P	V	T	P	O	T	E	S	U	O	H	E	H	T	N	O	P	U	O
T	H	G	I	N	T	N	E	L	I	S	F	L	L	E	O	N	T	S	R	I	F	E	H	T	B
D	U	R	N	X	Q	H	U	O	V	Z	R	J	H	D	R	X	H	T	K	N	K	P	Q	T	R
M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	F	O	N	W	O	T	E	L	T	T	I	L	O	T	B	I	E
X	A	W	C	V	M	F	L	H	B	D	H	F	X	O	P	X	H	B	F	Z	M	I	A	N	M
Q	N	Y	B	A	B	A	T	N	A	S	M	A	D	A	D	I	V	A	N	Z	I	L	E	F	M
S	K	X	V	B	C	Y	R	A	C	L	E	E	R	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	O	U
G	N	I	S	S	L	E	G	N	A	D	L	A	R	E	H	E	H	T	K	R	A	H	J	R	R
F	F	S	I	L	V	E	R	B	E	L	L	S	L	L	E	B	E	L	G	N	I	J	E	C	D
H	D	O	F	K	N	L	L	F	W	K	Y	V	Z	T	J	R	J	P	S	Y	Y	H	U	H	E
O	Q	R	M	D	N	A	L	R	E	D	N	O	W	R	E	T	N	I	W	F	Q	O	Z	R	L
W	E	W	I	S	H	Y	O	U	A	M	E	R	R	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	I	T
G	O	D	R	E	S	T	Y	E	M	E	R	R	Y	G	E	N	T	L	E	M	E	N	R	S	T
R	A	E	L	C	T	H	G	I	N	D	I	M	E	H	T	N	O	P	U	E	M	A	C	T	I
S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S	I	S	C	O	M	I	N	G	T	O	T	O	W	N	M	L
A	M	R	O	A	V	Z	B	O	M	F	R	O	S	T	Y	T	H	E	S	N	O	W	M	A	N
J	X	A	W	A	Y	I	N	A	M	A	N	G	E	R	E	D	I	R	H	G	I	E	L	S	C

Bits and Pieces

Find these song titles in the puzzle:

Away in a Manger

Up on the Housetop

Silver Bells

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Jingle Bells

Deck the Halls

The First Noel

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Feliz Navidad

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Frosty the Snowman

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Santa Baby

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Silent Night

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

O Christmas Tree

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Sleigh Ride

Little Drummer Boy

May this holiday season

leave you with precious memories:

A Christmas filled with love and light,

perfect gifts, delicious foods,

love and joy all around.

A New Year with continuing blessings—

friends, family, good work, great fun,

and delightful surprises.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Christmas Potluck

Sunday, December 9 following worship

WELCA

December 11 - 1:30

Birthdays

December 2	Clinton Babolian
	Gordon Kassenborg
December 16	Paul Decker
December 17	Delores Hagene
December 29	Kristine Lynde

Christmas

Tuesday, December 25

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

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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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