

Concordia News – Large Print

September 2018

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

Volume 13

Number 9

ISSN 2152-3339



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From Pastor Bruce



In a recent communication from the NW MN Synod, Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, he stated that in the last couple years he has witnessed the dramatic rise in congregations that have not been able to find a pastor. There has been a shortage of clergy for a number of years but it is this spike in unfilled vacancies that is the most concerning. Attendance at many ELCA seminaries is less than half of what it was a generation ago. This phenomenon is affecting most denominations and most dramatically the Catholic Church. In response to this shortage, our synod has started a fund which seeks to reduce the debt load of seminarians. This fund will not solve the problem but might make it more feasible for young people to afford attending one of our seminaries. I commend the following to you for your consideration.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bruce

On December 7th, leaders of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod took the steps necessary to establish the synod's own endowment fund, also known as the Next Generation Fund. Pastor Clay Ellingson of Moorhead chaired the first meeting of the committee (appointed by the synod council) that will oversee the fund's operations.

According to the synod's governing documents (continuing resolution S15.11.01.A12), all assets of the Fund are to be held in the name of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Next Generation Fund-a fund that will be maintained separately from the operating and designated funds of the Synod. Distributions from the fund will be made in keeping with four broad purposes identified for the Next Generation Fund.

In keeping with the second purpose-"raising up servant leaders for God's mission," the committee will focus its initial attention on providing grants to relieve educational-debtloads for ELCA pastors and deacons early in their years of service in our synod. It is anticipated that initial grants will be awarded in 2018.

The committee decided to use the ELCA Foundation's Fund "A" as the investment vehicle for the Next Generation Fund. Fund "A" (of the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust), was established to allow for the collective long-term investment of funds belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), its congregations, synods, seminaries and other eligible affiliated entities. Fund A is administered by the ELCA. The Board of Pensions of the ELCA, doing business as Portico Benefit Services, is the investment advisor. More information about Fund "A" is available at <http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA->

Foundation#EndowmentFundA. An initial monetary investment of just over \$100,000 in the Next Generation Fund is coming from a synod designated fund that has functioned as a repository for bequests received by the synod over the last few years. The committee is now soliciting new gifts to the Fund from individuals, organizations and congregations of from individuals, organizations and congregations of the synod. In her ongoing work in planned giving Amy Bigot will lift up the Next Generation Fund as a wonderful option for donors wishing to remember the synod in their legacy/estate planning.

As implementation of the Next Generation Fund unfolds, additional information and promotional materials will be available on www.nwmnsynod.org.

An anonymous donor has stepped up to match donations to the Next Generation Fund, so your gift to the fund will be doubled.

Checks should be made out to **NWMN Synod** and marked in the memo if it should be designated to a particular ministry (eg, The Next Generation Fund).

Send checks to:

NWMN Synod Office

Concordia College

Moorhead, MN 56562

Coffee and Cookie Servers

September 2	Myron Hagene	October 7	Carolyn Edwards
September 9	Regina Hanson	October 14	Clinton Babolian
September 16	Kathy Krogstad	October 21	Barb Grover
September 23	Barb Grover	October 28	Germaine Gress
September 30	Sylvia Teigen		



Bible
STUDY
Join us!

Bible Study

Wednesday, September 5
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, September 11
1:30 p.m.
Fryn' Pan



Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m., Friday, September 28
Fryn' Pan



Pastoral Care

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact

Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.

This month's story is "Samuel the Prophet" Kids Corner is located in the congregation section of the website.



Veteran's Coffee Hour

Join your fellow veterans at the Fargo Air Museum from 10-noon Wednesday, Wednesday, September 12.



Donate to the Food Shelf!

Leave your non perishable donations in the box in the Narthex.

In school, you are taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you are given a test that teaches you a lesson.

~Will Durant

Congratulations!



Graham and Megan (Zhang) Taylor exchanged vows at Concordia on the afternoon of Wednesday August 1, 2018. Graham is the son of Alene (Grover) Sladky and the late William Taylor. Megan is a special education teacher in the master's program at the University of Minnesota. She is from a small town near Beijing, China. The couple lives in

Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

Thanks to Pastor Bruce for a very special ceremony.

Fall Begins

September 22



With Our Thanks
Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Eva Hedstrom

Lloyd Gunderson

John & Nancy Hammett

In Memory of Richard Skrei

John & Nancy Hammett

In Memory of Donald Johnson's birthday

Bev Edenborg



Sunday
September 9

Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

Skillet Cheesy Loaded Potatoes



Ingredients

8 pcs. bacon, sliced into 1" pieces

3 russet potatoes, thinly sliced

8 oz. grated cheddar cheese

Salt & Pepper

2 TB sour cream

3 sliced green onions

Directions

- In a large skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Place on a paper towel and set aside.
- In the same skillet, add potatoes and sprinkle with salt & pepper. Stir so all slices are coated with bacon grease. Cook until potatoes are tender.
- Sprinkle with cheese. Cook until bottom of potatoes are brown and cheese has melted.
- Sprinkle with onions and bacon and dot with sour cream.

from the
Moorhead Daily News

September 7, 1923

Page Four



Remains of Ole Swanson are interred at Buffalo River Cemetery

The funeral of Ole Swanson, prominent Kragnes farmer, who died on Tuesday, from injuries he suffered in an auto accident, was held this afternoon. Short services were held at the Wright chapel here, following which the remains were taken to Concordia church on the Buffalo River, where services were held. Rev. Mr. Wickre officiated. Interment was made in the Concordia church cemetery. The services were scheduled to be held on Thursday, but were postponed owing to the bad conditions of the roads following the rain.



Labor Day was 'invented' as a way to focus attention on work-related issues. In the 1830s, manufacturing workers were putting in 70-hour weeks on average. Union organizers promoted an 8-hour work day and a six-day work

week. Surprisingly, many politicians and business owners were actually in favor of giving workers more time off. That's because workers who had no free time were not able to spend their wages on traveling, entertainment or dining out. Shortening the work week was one way of turning the working class into the consuming class.

Around the world, May 1st is a common day for recognizing the contributions of the world's workers. Because it was initiated and supported by Marxists, Socialists and Communists as a day for protest, American labor leaders decided that a September celebration that focused on parades and picnics was a better way to create progress in our democratic society. The first Monday in September was chosen because it fell halfway between the 4th of July and Thanksgiving.

Matthew McGuire was a radical member of the Machinists Union and was likely the man behind the holiday. However, more moderate union leaders thought it would be better politically to have a less controversial name associated with the holiday, and credited a man named Peter McGuire as its chief organizer.

The goal of Labor Day's organizers was to bring workers from many fields together and help them understand they all had common interests that could be championed by joint (union) representation.

Unfortunately, there was no employer or government support for this holiday, mostly because of fears that it would be a day like those in Europe for protests and possible violence.

The first Labor Day in New York in 1882 was actually a one day strike. “Striking” workers were expected to march in a parade and afterwards attend a picnic. At the picnic, unionists and politicians made speeches (that the New York Times reported as dull and boring). It was a peaceful celebration that pleased workers, unionists and politicians. The public at large seemed to approve of a day of positive celebration of the contributions of labor to the country.

Within 12 years, half the states had instituted Labor Day holidays. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland declared Labor Day a federal holiday. Although it technically only covered federal government workers, that action encouraged the rest of the states to follow suit. In 1968, the “Uniform Monday Holiday Act” formally established the first Monday in September as the national Labor Day holiday.

Over the years, Labor Day has come to represent the unofficial end of summer. Its connection to labor unions and workers rights has largely been lost, but there are still parades and speeches in some communities. Although many school districts now begin their

school year in August, it is still considered a final week-end for families to plan outings and picnics with their children and extended families and friends before school and related activities take over their schedules.



Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 5

Concordia Women 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 11

Veteran Coffee Hour 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 12

ROMEOS 7:30 a.m., Friday, September 28

Birthdays

September 9 Doris Kassenborg

September 13 Sylvia Teigen

September 18 Ernest Edwards

Anniversaries

September 9 Neil & Polly Hanson

September 23 Dick & Mavis Wang

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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:

E-mail news@concordianews.org

Write: Alene Sladky

6938 State Hwy 200 NW

Laporte MN 56461



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

Concordia Newsletter Staff

Editors: Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen

Treasurer/Distribution: Walter Teigen

Web Edition: Alene Sladky