

Concordia News – Large Print

December 2018

Volume 13

A newsletter for members,
family, and friends of

Number 12

Concordia Lutheran Church and
Concordia Cemetery Association



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Without question, it is right and proper that Christians celebrate Christmas.

It was the incarnation, God becoming man, that set the basis for the ultimate spiritual event for Christianity, the death and resurrection of God's son. Without the birth of Christ there would have been no death and thereby no resurrection. It is



odd then that there is no biblical or historical basis for Christmas being celebrated at all for over two hundred years after the resurrection. Indeed, the tradition of Christmas being celebrated at the end of December isn't revealed until even later.

Unlike Jesus death, which was tied directly to the longstanding Jewish festival of Passover, there is no such rooting of even the approximate time of Jesus' birth. In fact Christian writings well after the time of the gospels being recorded, indicate a disdain for pagan celebrations of the birth of the rulers, most of which were not believable. By the middle of the third century consensus started to form that the best time to celebrate Christmas was either Jan 6 or Dec 25. Eventually Dec 25 won out and Jan 6 became the first day of Epiphany. It is commonly believed that the reason for choosing

From Pastor Bruce

the end of December was an effort to win over pagans who celebrated the winter solstice.

While we cannot confidently identify the exact date of Jesus birth, the main thing is not nailing down a precise date but to acknowledge the historical fact of his birth and the reason for his birth. The saying is thereby true, it is good to remember the reason for the season. That reason is Jesus and the beneficiaries of the incarnation are you and me.

May you and yours have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bruce





Coffee and Cookie Servers

December 2	Linda Koester	January 6	Germaine Gress
December 9	Kathy Krogstad	January 13	Clinton Babolian
December 16	Sue Kassenborg	January 20	Carolyn Edwards
December 30	Lloyd Gunderson	January 27	Irene Olson

Bible Study



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



Concordia Ladies

No meeting in December

Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m., December 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.

In December the subject in Kids Corner is “King David.” 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, December 12

Tree Trimming & Advent Party

Saturday, December 1 at 1 p.m.



Sunday

December 9

Join us for our annual Christmas Potluck following services on December 9. We will be serving leftover meatballs & potatoes from the Fall Dinner, so main dishes aren't required.



Don't forget to bring something for the Hat & Mitten Tree! The 'decorations' will be donated to benefit homeless kids in Fargo-Moorhead.



Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25



10:00 a.m.

No Service on Sunday, December 23



Happy New Year!



Cancellations

Services will be cancelled when the wind chill exceeds minus 20 degrees or when NOAA (the National Weather Service) advises "No Travel." The congregation president and pastor will determine if other circumstances (low

visibility, icy conditions) should result in cancellation. WDAY TV and radio should broadcast the cancellation, but a few times they have not. When in doubt, do not hesitate to call Pastor Bruce the day of, at 218-329-2245. If you reach voice mail he may be talking to someone else, so please leave a message and he'll return your call as soon as he can.



With our Thanks
Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Harold and Lucilla Anderson

Harold Anderson family

In Memory of the Gorder Family

Gloria Tomas



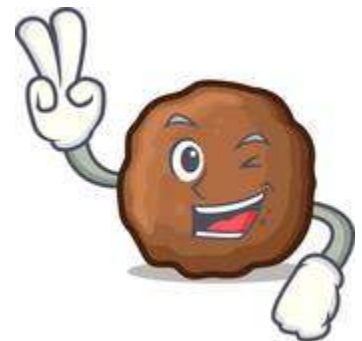
ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

Go to ELCA.org/goodgifts to choose your gift or to learn more.

Select a card to notify a friend or loved one of the gift you're giving in their honor. It's a great way to celebrate the holidays by reaching out in God's love to the world!

Thank You Clinton!

...and all who helped with the meatball dinner.
Good food and fellowship go together just like
meatballs and gravy.



Everyone's efforts in preparing, serving, and cleaning up after the annual fall dinner are always appreciated!

Thank you Colleen! Thank you Ernest!



Once again this year Colleen Edwards and her brother Ernie donated the candy and apples in the Christmas bags given out at the Advent party and tree-trimming on December 1. They helped make up the bags, too! Continuing this nostalgic tradition from the Christmas programs of decades gone by adds a very special meaning to our celebrations of the season. We are so thankful to the Edwards siblings for helping bring joy to our community at this "most wonderful time of the year!"

Viking Christmas Traditions?



Many Christmas traditions trace their origins to the Vikings' pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. When most of us think of Christmas dinner, we think of ham or roast pork. Millenia ago pork was served at winter solstice celebrations to represent the nightly feasts in Valhalla. Legend told that Odin's pig *Sarimner* was killed and boiled each night to feed the warrior heroes in Valhalla. Pork was also said to represent *Hildisvini*, the boar the Norse warrior goddess Freya rode.

Recipe of the Month

Berlinerkranser



Ingredients

1 cup pearl sugar (can substitute regular sugar)

1/2 cup sugar 2 eggs (raw)

1 egg yolk (hardboiled) 1 hardboiled egg

3 cups flour 1 cup unsalted butter

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Separate raw egg whites from yolks. Place egg whites aside in a small bowl.
- Set pearl sugar aside in a small bowl.
- Mix other ingredients in a large bowl using hands or mixer.
- Roll dough into pencil-thin strips and form wreath shape.
- Dip each wreath in egg white and pearl sugar.
- Bake on parchment paper for about 15 minutes. Cookies should turn very light brown.

Substitute red or green sprinkles for pearl sugar and decorate with a candied cherry, either green or red, cut into quarters.





A Letter from Santa Claus

By Mark Twain

Palace of Saint Nicholas on the Moon Christmas Morning

My Dear Susy Clemens,

I have received and read all the letters which you and your little sister have written me I can read your and your baby sister's jagged and fantastic marks without any trouble at all. But I had trouble with those letters which you dictated through your mother and the nurses, for I am a foreigner and cannot read English writing well. You will find that I made no mistakes about the things which you and the baby ordered in your own letters--I went down your chimney at midnight when you were asleep and delivered them all myself--and kissed both of you, too But . . . there were . . . one or two small orders which I could not fill because we ran out of stock

There was a word or two in your mama's letter which . . . I took to be "a trunk full of doll's clothes." Is that it? I will call at your kitchen door about nine o'clock this morning to inquire. But I must not see anybody and I must not speak to anybody but you. When the kitchen doorbell rings, George must be blindfolded and sent to the door. You must tell George he must walk on tiptoe and not speak. Then you must go up to the nursery and stand on a chair or the nurse's bed and put your

ear to the speaking tube that leads down to the kitchen and when I whistle through it you must speak in the tube and say, "Welcome, Santa Claus!" Then I will ask whether it was a trunk you ordered or not. If you say it was, I shall ask you what color you want the trunk to be . . . and then you must tell me every single thing in detail which you want the trunk to contain. Then when I say "Good-bye and a Merry Christmas to my little Susy Clemens," you must say "Good-bye, good old Santa Claus, I thank you very much." Then you must go down into the library and make George close all the doors that open into the main hall, and everybody must keep still for a little while. I will go to the moon and get those things and in a few minutes I will come down the chimney that belongs to the fireplace that is in the hall--if it is a trunk you want--because I couldn't get such a thing as a trunk down the nursery chimney, you knowIf I should leave any snow in the hall, you must tell George to sweep it into the fireplace, for I haven't time to do such things. George must not use a broom, but a rag. . . . If my boot should leave a stain on the marble, George must not holystone it away. Leave it there always in memory of my visit; and whenever you look at it or show it to anybody you must let it remind you to be a good little girl. Whenever you are naughty and someone points to that mark which your good old Santa Claus's boot made on the marble, what will you say, little sweetheart?

Love from Santa Claus



from the **Moorhead Daily News**

December 20, 1941

Moland Resident since 1882 Dies

Mrs. A. T. Grover, Moland Township resident since 1882, died at her farm home near Glyndon. She was 79 years old.

She was preceded in death by her husband a year ago. Mr. Grover died January 14, 1940.

Mrs. Grover, the former Pauline A. Anderson Kroshus, was born July 10, 1862, in Winnisheik County, Iowa. She came to this part of the country in 1882 and was a school teacher for several years.

She became the bride of Mr. Grover in 1884 at the first wedding to be performed in the new Concordia Lutheran Church building, rural Glyndon.

She became a member of that church and the Ladies Aid Society. During the first World War, Mrs. Grover was Moland Township chairman for the American Red Cross.

She leaves two sons, Clarence, Glyndon, and Elmer, rural Moorhead, and six grandchildren.

Arrangements for funeral services have not yet been completed. The body is at A. J. Wright and Sons Funeral Home.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion Sunday, December 2

No Services on Sunday, December 23

Tree Trimming 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 1

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

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

Christmas Eve Service 4 p.m., Monday, December 24

Christmas Day Service 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 25

ROMEOs 7:30 a.m., Friday, December 28

Birthdays

December 2 Clinton Babolian & Gordon Kassenborg

December 16 Paul Decker

December 17 Delores Hagene

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