



Concordia News

October 2019



Volume 14

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

Number 10

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Thirty five years ago I was called to serve Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN. During the seven years I spent there the farm crisis loomed



large. High interest rates combined with low commodity prices put a squeeze on many farmers cash flow. During that time bankruptcies skyrocketed. The darkest part of those years for me were the years too much rain fell. Wheat sat out in the field into late Oct just north of town. It was a sickening feeling to drive by that field and see the color turn from gold to a pale brown. My clergy colleagues spoke about their concern that someone in their parish might be so overwhelmed by despair that they might take their own life. This fear weighed on many a pastors' spirits during those dark years. One of the things we looked for was the farmer (or spouse of a farmer) who would isolate themselves from the community because self-isolation was known to be one of the symptoms of depression and suicidal thoughts.

While things are not exactly the same today as in the 1980's, we have had several years of low commodity prices and in most parts of our region we've had an overabundance of rain. For those of you who grew up or currently live on a farm, you know something about the many stressors associated with farming. Farmers have little or no control over most of the forces that determine whether they succeed or not. The fear of losing a farm for many is a more stressful than losing a business of other kinds. When one loses a farm much of the time one also loses one's neighbors/community/church. Should a farmer go bankrupt it usually is not just his or her farm that is lost but his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents farm that is lost. I remember one farmer stating that he had felt like he had betrayed a family trust; whether you agree with that or not such words indicate the level of angst that is at work in an individual's life.

During these times of economic uncertainty it is important to support those who farm in our communities. It is not helpful and much of the time it is not accurate to lump all farmers who experience economic collapse into the category of "bad managers" as was sometimes done 30 years ago. What is needed is to continue to support those who are struggling and to encourage them to stay involved in the community and particularly in the church for that may be one of the last places of hope and light that they have should their lives be characterized by a sense of gathering gloom.

Concordia owes its existence to the grace of God working through the generous contributions of farmers over the last 150 years who in their bounty and in their scarcity continued to support its mission. Let us support our present-day farmers during these difficult times.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bruce

Announcements and Assignments

Coffee and Cookie Servers

October 6 Barb Grover
 October 13 Regina Hanson
 October 20 Sylvia Teigen
 October 27 Linda Koester
 November 3 Polly Hanson
 November 10 Becky Jegtvig
 November 17 Kathy Krogstad
 November 24 Irene Olson



Richard "Dick" Skrei 1931-2019



Richard 'Dick' Skrei of Bella Vista, Arkansas passed away peacefully at Legacy Circle of Life Hospice, July 23, 2018.

He was born March 2, 1931 to Obert and Evelyn Skrei of Glyndon Minnesota where he grew up working the farm and playing a variety of sports for Moorhead High. He enjoyed his roles of oldest of ten siblings. He left the farm to study Agricultural Business and play baseball for Iowa State University. He made lifelong friends at the TKE fraternity and more importantly met his wife of 60 years, Ann Beno, a fellow student. His career in Agricultural Chemicals took them and their three children to North Dakota, Iowa, New Jersey, Georgia, California and Ohio, where he retired in 1990, first to North Carolina and in 2005 to Bella Vista.

His passions were sports (he had hoped to live long enough to watch the Vikings and the Hogs for one more season), golfing, watching college basketball, doing daily puzzles in his morning newspapers, fishing, traveling, watching the birds from his screened in porch and family time, especially when playing cards was involved. He was a devoted volunteer, ushering and helping the Meals on Wheels project at United Lutheran Church in Bella Vista, volunteering every Thursday morning at the Northwest Medical Center's information desk for over 12 years at both places. During the summer, he was a regular visitor to his beloved neighborhood pool.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ann, his parents, brothers Ted, Paul and Michael, sisters Barbara Brown and Karen Walker, son-in-law Randy Mock and one daughter at birth. He is survived by his three children, Sandra Skrei Mock of Glen Rose, TX, Steven (Sue) Skrei of Columbus, Ohio and Paul (Beth) Skrei of Bella Vista (much to his delight), four grandchildren, Zach (Kirstyn), Emily and Kyle Skrei of Columbus, Ohio and Daniel (Sabrina) Skrei of Spokane, WA with his first great-grandchild, Owen Michael Skrei on the way, two grandsons of the heart Ryan and Matthew Pennell of Boise, ID and Cheney WA, several beloved nieces and nephews, cousins and was the 'step-in' grandfather for his Beno/Simpson girls.

A family memorial and interment of his ashes in Concordia Cemetery was held last month.

Bible Study

Wednesday, October 2
5:30 – 7:00 pm



Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, October 8
1:30 p.m.
Fryn' Pan

Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out
7:30 a.m., October 25
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 learn about the Reformation in Kids Corner. 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, October 9.



October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up before a dancing flame and sink into a good book.
~John Sinor

Fall Dinner



MEATBALLS & MASHED POTATOES

Sunday

October 20

11 am - 1 pm

Concordia

Lutheran

Church

**6637 80TH AVENUE NORTH
GLYNDON MN 56461**

FREE WILL OFFERING

Donations

Concordia General Fund

In Memory of Richard (Dick) Skrei
Dean & Lynn Skrei Greenwaldt
Paul & Beth Skrei
Steve & Sue Skrei
Sandy Skrei Mock

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Harold and Lucilla Anderson
Harold Anderson Family

In Memory of Richard (Dick) Skrei
Doris Kassenborg
Tudy & Chuck Cheney
Dean & Lynn Greenwaldt

Donation
Gloria Gorder Tomas

A Brief History of the Reformation

The Reformation is usually dated to October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany.

The main idea behind the Theses and the Reformation was that the Bible was the sole authority on matters of faith and religion. Each person should learn about God directly from it. Although these ideas had been around for a long time, the invention of the printing press allowed these ideas to spread quickly throughout Germany and northern Europe. Without the printing press, the Reformation would likely not have happened.

Luther's goal was always to reform the Catholic Church not create a new one, but his excommunication in 1521 made that impossible. Secular princes saw the Reformation as a way to declare political independence from the all-powerful Catholic Church. The idea of a "priesthood of all believers" empowered the lower classes and led to the Peasant's Revolt of 1524. Interestingly enough, Luther sided with the princes. By the mid-1500s, Lutheranism had become the state religion of Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic states.

Recipe of the Month Halloween Bread Pudding



Ingredients

10 slices of white bread, cubed
16 ounce can of pumpkin puree
2/3 cup sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/8 tsp salt
6 beaten eggs
1 cup milk
5 ounce can evaporated milk
1/2 cup chopped pecans
Red & Yellow food coloring
1/8 tsp white vinegar
8 oz. tub of Cool Whip

Directions

- Spray 9 x 13 pan with cooking spray
- Arrange bread cubes evenly in pan
- Mix together the rest of the ingredients.
- Pour pumpkin mixture over bread.
- Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 8-12 hours
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Uncover casserole and bake until a toothpick comes out clean (about 45 minutes)
- Add vinegar to Cool Whip. Add red and yellow food coloring to Cool Whip until you have the orange color you want.
- Add a dollop of Cool Whip to each serving and top with a black Halloween candy.












If using real whipping cream don't add vinegar.

Church Bulletin Bloopers



For the group of ladies called Moms Who Care and pray for the children in school. No meeting on Wednesday, this week there will be no moms who care.

OCTOBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Bible Study 5:30 pm 	3	4	5
6 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship Communion 	7 	8 Concordia Ladies 1:30pm 	9 Vets Coffee 10-noon 	10	11	12
13 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship	14	15	16	17	18 PAUL & KAROLYNN DECKER 	19
20 GREEN 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship 	21 Newsletter Deadline 	22 	23	24	25 ROMEOS 7:30 am 	26
27 RED 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship REFORMATION SUNDAY	28	29	30	31 Halloween 		

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October 2019

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

Concordia News

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etc.**

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