



# Concordia Chimes

## CONCORDIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

585 Fifth St.  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578  
608-643-6356  
www.concordiaumc.org

Rev. Doris Simpson, Pastor  
Laila Drescher, Editor  
Paul Webster, Missionary  
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### What's inside?

From the Pastor	Page 2
Sunday School and CYF	Page 2
Birthdays	Page 3
Concordia Cares	Page 3
Community Meals	Page 3
Church Council Meeting	Page 3
Melodies of Compassion	Page 4
Box Tops	Page 4
Note of Thanks	Page 4
Donations	Page 5
Budget News	Page 5
Poinsettia for the Sanctuary	Page 5
Caroling and Wagon Ride	Page 6
Angels Among Us	Page 6
Caring Tree	Page 6
United Methodist Women	Page 7
Salvation Army Bell Ringers	Page 7
Who's Doing What, When	Page 8
Readings	Page 8
Letter from the Bishop	Page 9
Helping Hands	Page 10
Nursery Leader	Page 10
Alzheimer Dementia Group	Page 10
Calendar	Page 11

### Our Mission Statement

*As a witness to Christ in our community, we are committed to spiritual growth and service.*

#### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**  
**Rev. Doris Simpson, Pastor**

I have set office hours so that you will know when you can be relatively sure I will be in the office if you want to stop in. That being said, there are times that I need to be gone for meetings, nursing home worship, scheduled pastoral visits or emergencies during those hours, but those times are infrequent. I am also often in the office until 5:00 pm or later, so you can stop in any time you see a blue Buick LeSabre parked in front of the church or in the parking lot.

#### Office Hours

Monday: 8:00am-1:00pm  
Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday: 8:00am-1:00pm  
Thursday: 8:00am-1:30pm  
Friday: 9:00am-11:30am  
Saturday and Sunday: Closed  
Hours may vary

#### Vision Statement of the Wisconsin Annual Conference:



Resident Bishop: Hee-Soo Jung  
Asst. to the Bishop: Dan Dick



#### Rev. Doris Simpson, Pastor

pastor@concordiaumc.org | 608-643-8822—church  
608-632-1825—cell | 608-643-8068—parsonage

#### Laila Drescher, Administrative Assistant

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In the coming weeks which will lead to our celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve, we will be listening for the messages the angels had for God's chosen people.

Jesus was born into a world and among a people who were well acquainted with fear. Their power to lead and govern themselves had been usurped by the Roman Empire. They were once again living under the rule of a foreign country. Domination by a foreign ruler had become a recurring reality in their lives. The Jewish people's lives had some similarities to a swinging pendulum. There was a pattern of assimilating into the dominating culture and separating from the God who made them a people. When the pendulum swung back, they always returned to Yahweh, God Almighty, their Mighty Fortress. When they were faithful to their God, the Jewish people would have been at odds with the gods of the Roman Empire. There was a great power differential between the Romans and the Jewish people. The differences caused the powerless to be rightfully fearful of the powerful.

The God of Israel sent messengers to the people. The message was often, "Do not be afraid." The messages required faith. The messengers asked the people to trust and obey their God. As we listen to the stories during the next few weeks, we will remember the witness of faith we've been given by our ancient ancestors. The stories will also stir within us questions of our own faith, our trust and obedience. We, like those of old, will hear from the messengers, "Do not be afraid." We, like those of old, are invited to examine our faith in God, our willingness to trust and obey God's call upon our lives.

The love of God, the grace of Jesus and the presence of God's Holy Spirit be with you during this holy time.

Pastor Dan Simpson

## Concordia Youth Foundation (CYF) Building a Bridge of Faith

Looking ahead to December, we will grow our faith through an Advent Study on Wednesday evenings as we look at Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. The Mudlove bracelet sale will continue throughout the month of December. It is a way for our group to spread love, peace and hope to others with the messages on the bracelets and also by each bracelet providing clean water to those in need for 1 week. If you would like to purchase a bracelet, ask one of the youth, they are eager to sell, or contact Laila in the church office. We will volunteer at the food pantry to help our community and discuss another service project for the holidays. If you have holiday projects that we can help with, please let us know! The Youth are preparing to lead the Worship service on December 17th with involvement in the Sunday School program and sharing the good news of Christmas throughout the service. Spread love, joy, peace and hope this month by inviting other youth to join our group. We love to see new faces!

## Concordia Sunday School Grades 4K-5

"For the time is coming," says the LORD, "when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land, Jeremiah, 23:5. Each week, the kids will focus on this verse and will learn more about celebrating Advent, Hearing about Mary and Joseph, the journey to Bethlehem, the nativity, and having a better understanding of a church family. May the hope and love of the season be present through all of us.

For those that are praying for this ministry, thank you! Please continue to pray for God's blessing on each of the kids; for the wisdom of God's word through the teachers.

## December Birthdays

1st– Betty Jones  
1st– Jon Accola  
2nd– Emily Carncross  
3rd– Stacy Paul  
4th– Doris Hosig  
4th– De Enge  
5th– Russ Moely  
5th– Jeff Rodgers  
11th– Marilyn Greimel  
11th– Ted Henn  
12th– Carol Janney  
15th– Abe Rothman  
19th– Joyce Magnusson  
19th– Nelson Davis  
19th– Steve Wenzel  
20th– Doug Jones  
21st– Wilbur Luetscher  
22nd– Livie Andres  
25th– Denman Kramer  
29th– Ron Rothmann  
30th– Ashley Henn  
30th– Carly Schroeder



### CONCORDIA CARES!

Please volunteer your time and show compassion to Concordia church families during times of joy (birth of a baby) and hardship (death in the family, ill family member etc.).

If you know of a family or a situation that would benefit from some TLC in the form of meals or transportation, please contact Pastor Doris (608-643-8822) or leave a message at the church (608-643-6356). We have a group of volunteers who are willing to offer assistance in those kinds of situations.

### **Community Meals in December**

**The Community Meals at Concordia for the month of December will be on:**

**Sunday, December 10th– Team ACTS  
Sunday, December 17th– Team Hagie**

**All are welcome to attend this free meal at Concordia for fellowship and food.**

**4:00-6:00pm**

**Join us and bring a friend!**

### **Concordia United Methodist Church Church Council Meeting Summary November 14, 2017**

The Church Council met on November 14th with ministry reports from each committee. The Nurture committee noted goals for 2018 to include building resources for adult education teachers, establish 4 events a year that are cross-generational, and to expand the helping hands program. The Outreach committee planned movie event in January and shared that money was designated for VIM scholarship and the SP backpack program. Reports were given on success of the Red Bird consignment sale and Coats for kids program. Discussion was held on the shortage of the commitment to Paul Webster's covenant. The Witness team shared that their upcoming goal will be to increase the number of first-time visitors to Concordia. United Methodist Women concluded a very successful bazaar and shared about the upcoming Christmas gathering on December 5th.

Other business included reports from the treasurer, finance committee, stewardship, Memorials, and Staff/parish relations. The trustees shared that the lighting project is complete except for finishing up the outside lighting. The Galena Street remodeling is close to being done; and the electronic data board was installed and is running. The Lay Leadership reported that we are still looking for someone to serve as the nursery coordinator.

In new business, Pastor Doris shared information about attendance of the Joint Charge Conference. The Accountable Leadership continued discussion on the structure for our church. The committee set goals to continue the discussion in the next several months. A full copy of the minutes is available from the church office.

## Melodies of Compassion

Our Melodies of Compassion for November and December supports

### The Redbird Mission



*Please note: only loose coins are deposited to Melodies of Compassion. Paper money is deposited into the General Offering Fund unless designated.*

## Box Tops for Education



Box Tops are still being collected for Red Bird. The Box Tops are located on many food items, including cake and cookie mixes, snacks, bags of flour and on a lot of paper products. These Box Tops do have an expiration date, so turn them in often. A shoe box is located on the small table inside the double doors of Fellowship Hall for you to place your labels and Box Tops. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Sandridge. Thank You!



Thank you for the Community Meal (team Koch) that we received on Sunday. It was delivered right to our door and it was really appreciated. Thank to you all indeed!

~Bill and Marilyn Blackmon

We would like to thank everyone who donated coats for the Coats for Kids project. Combined, St. John's Lutheran and Concordia donated 176 coats, 12 pairs of boots and numerous scarves, gloves and hats. Great response! Thank you!

~ The Outreach Committee

The United Methodist Hospitals Ministry would like to express our sincere appreciation for your congregation's most recent gift of \$364.72. (Note: an additional \$200.00 is sent from the Mission Team). We thank you for your generous and ongoing support.. Your gift provides much more than our chaplain Ann Scott's ministry supplies. It enables lives to be supported and persons to be connected by compassionate spiritual care as they cope with their hospitalization or their loved one. In addition, hospital staff members find support for their healing work by the presence and counsel of Ann when she is in their hospital. Thanks to the members of Concordia United Methodist Church for this and your past faithfulness towards this ministry.

~David Sharpe for the Ministry Committee

# BUDGET REPORT



<b>BUDGET NEWS</b>	
Budget Receipts for October 2017	\$16,443.85
<b><u>NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS FOR MAY 2017</u></b>	
UW Hospitals Ministry	\$193.44
Stueber Good Samaritan Fund	\$704.77
Red Bird Mission	\$125.33
World Communion Sunday	\$125.00
Hurricane Relief (UMCOR)	\$620.00
<b>BUDGET SUMMARY—YEAR TO DATE</b>	
Beginning Balance 1/1/17	\$34,272.53
Receipts	\$159,036.83
Disbursements	\$174,881.93
General Checking Account Balance 10/31/17	\$18,427.43
Capital Improvement Fund 7/31/17	\$137,244.48

**Electronic Giving . . .** Your annual pledge helps us forecast, with confidence, the level of financial support our congregation will receive in the year ahead. It is through the pledges and contributions of our members that we are able to live our mission here at **Concordia UMC**.

As you consider your pledge, we remind you that we offer Electronic Giving as a way to automate your offerings. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for the church. Collection basket offerings can fluctuate significantly from week to week but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis. Authorization forms are available in the church office.

**Poinsettias for the Sanctuary**

The beauty of a poinsettia reminds us of Christmas with its bright red color and star symbolizing blooms. If you have a loved one that you would like to honor or remember this holiday season with a poinsettia in the Sanctuary, please contact the church office or fill out the forms located at the back of the Sanctuary. The poinsettias will be displayed throughout the holidays with an insert in the December 24th bulletin for honor and memory. The cost is \$8.00 with proceeds benefitting the missions of Concordia. Please submit poinsettia order forms by December 18th. Thank you.



**SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS**

Second Sunday donations (food, cash, hygiene, household items) for December will go to the Food Pantry.



**FOURTH SUNDAY DONATIONS**

Donations for Zelpha's Pantry will be accepted the fourth Sunday of the month. The Personal hygiene items are offered to guests at the Community Meal on the last Sunday of the month.

### Christmas Wagon Ride Caroling and Chili Lunch

Join us on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00pm at the church for a horse-drawn wagon ride and caroling.

The event will begin with a chili lunch around 12:00pm, bring a dish or a drink to share.

You do not need to participate in the wagon ride to come to the chili lunch.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall  
If you want to go on the wagon ride so we have enough wagons.  
Free will offering to be taken to help with the cost of the wagon.

Our Caring Tree will be by the Fellowship Hall from November 7th to December 10th. If you are interested in helping, please take a tag and return the unwrapped gift to church by

December 10th. Thank you!

If you have questions, contact Lynette Theis at 643-6905.



# Angels Among Us

## Concordia United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30am  
*Handbell Choir "Songs of Christmas Gladness"*

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
*The Chancel Choir "Because Jesus Came"*



Sunday, December 17 10:30am  
*Sunday School Christmas Program "The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas"*

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve  
*10:30am Service of Light and Remembrance*  
*7:00pm Christmas Carols, Communion and Candlelight*

*#DoNotBeAfraid*



**“A Christmas Gathering”**  
**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

**Join us as we “ring” in the Christmas season with warm fellowship and joyful music from Concordia’s Handbell Choir.**

***Coffee, punch and refreshments will be served***

**All member, family and friends are invited to this event!**

**Sponsored by Concordia UMW**

## **Bell Ringers Needed!**

Please consider volunteering to ring bells and spread holiday cheer by signing up for a time slot for the Concordia bell ringing times. Our dates to fill are December 22nd and 23rd at Piggly Wiggly and Sauk Prairie Pantry/Sentry. Sign-up sheets are located in Fellowship Hall.



### **Upcoming Evens with UMW:**

- UMW Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12th at 10:00am at the church.
- UMW members are reminded to please bring 2 dozen cookies to the Christmas Gathering on Dec. 5th. Thank you!

# Who's doing what, when?

## December 3rd:

**Ushers:** Stacy and Carol Paul  
Doug Hamilton, Dave Dickson  
**Greeter:** Lisa and Scott Alyea  
**Acolytes:** Evie Fritsch and Bella Enge  
**Liturgist:** Laila Drescher  
**Tech Desk:** Doug Hultberg  
**Nursery:** Steve and Lisa Wenzel  
**Communion:** Tom and Roxanne Andres

## December 10th:

**Ushers:** Stacey and Carol Paul  
Doug Hamilton, Dave Dickson  
**Greeters:** DeLorman and Louise Enge  
**Acolytes:** Ava and Otis Andres  
**Liturgist:** Lisa Alyea  
**Tech Desk:** Pat Mings  
**Nursery:**  
**Community Meal:** Team ACTS

## December 17th:

**Ushers:** Youth  
**Greeters:** Youth  
**Acolytes:** Matthew and Alyssa Wenzel  
**Liturgist:** Youth  
**Tech Desk:** Bruce Koch  
**Nursery:** Suzanne Paskey  
**Community Meal:** Team Hagie

## December 24th 10:30am Worship

**Ushers:** Stacey and Carol Paul  
Doug Hamilton, Dave Dickson  
**Greeters:** Sue Evans  
**Acolytes:** Griffin and Gillie Fritsch  
**Liturgist:**  
**Tech Desk:** Bruce Koch  
**Nursery:** Gina Accola



## DECEMBER READINGS:

December 3: Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-80, 68-79  
December 10: Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:26-56,  
December 17: Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Matthew 1:18-25  
December 24: Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 2:1-20  
December 24: Isaiah 9:2-7;  
Luke 1-2;  
John 1:1-5, 16-18  
December 31: Isaiah 62:6-12  
Matthew 2:1-23



## December 24th 7:00pm Worship

**Ushers:** Stacey and Carol Paul  
Doug Hamilton, Dave Dickson  
**Greeters:** Court and Laila Drescher  
**Acolyte:** Anna Drescher  
**Tech Desk:** Doug Hultberg

## December 31st:

**Ushers:** Stacey and Carol Paul  
Doug Hamilton, Dave Dickson  
**Greeters:** Bill and Marilyn Blackmon  
**Acolyte:** Carly Schroeder  
**Liturgist:**  
**Tech Desk:** Bruce Koch  
**Nursery:** Emily Carncross

## Never Alone

In our highly individualized, personal and self-sufficient culture, we sometimes need powerful and impressive reminders that we are stronger together than we are apart. United Methodists proudly proclaim that we are a “connectional Church,” but often this is proclaimed at an abstract and conceptual level. While we may say we are stronger together, we often behave as if we think we need no one beyond ourselves.

But when we honestly face the immensity of the needs in our world – needs for food, shelter, education, safety and security, mercy, healing, and justice – it becomes quickly clear that individually we can accomplish very little. The recent rash of natural disasters reveals just how vulnerable and fragile we are. Facing floods, fire, earthquakes, and hurricanes cannot be addressed adequately by individuals, or even individual congregations. This is the brilliance and benefit of our connectional Church.

In this season preparing our hearts and minds for Thanksgiving, let us celebrate our strength in unity together through our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Of all our causes to celebrate, UMCOR must rank toward the top. Through unity, solidarity, sacrifice and commitment, each and every United Methodist enters into the divine synergy God produces in our Church – together we truly are greater than the sum of our parts.

I want to encourage you to go spend some time on the UMCOR website. I guarantee that your heart will be “strangely warmed” by the stories of grace, compassion and service.

We are in Puerto Rico, partnering short- and long-term strategy for response and recovery. There will be a need for volunteers in Puerto Rico for quite some time, and UMCOR ensures that we will be with them for the long haul.

We are present in Myanmar and Bangladesh, engaged in the migrant refugee crisis with Rohingya Muslims. As more and more minority abuses increase, UMCOR responds to provide comfort, supplies and support.

UMCOR recently approved more than \$7 million in grants for hurricane and other disaster-relief work, and an additional \$1.86 million was designated for global health projects. UMCOR is present in Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina following the hurricanes, and in Mexico following the recent earthquake.

UMCOR continues to work in Sierra Leone following the catastrophic rains and mudslides to assist in recovery projects. Residents in the United States can hardly conceive the challenges being faced around our globe in the wake of tragic natural disasters. Unlike the United States, most parts of the planet lack infrastructure and resources to cope with cataclysmic disaster.

UMCOR continues to work world-wide to promote and support sustainable development. Wherever and whenever there is need, UMCOR responds. In this season of Thanksgiving, give special thanks to our global connectional witness, particularly the blessing that is UMCOR.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



### Nursery Leader Wanted!

The Nurture Committee has been working on updating policies and procedures for the Nursery offered during Worship on Sunday mornings. We are looking for someone willing to share their gifts to this ministry by leading the changes we would like to see in the Nursery. Some of the responsibilities will include making sure the toys are clean and rotated for kids to play with, putting new books for kids to read, checking the craft supplies to make sure there are plenty available and being the contact for volunteers assigned to be there each week. The nursery leader would also work on structuring the time in the nursery for our volunteers with the use of children's bulletins and other strategies they may have and teaching the volunteers about the policies and structure of the nursery. Thank you for considering sharing your organizational talents and time to expand this important offering at Concordia.



One of the ways the Nurture Committee wants to care for our church family is to provide an outlet to share when one of us has a need, or when one of us has a need to help. It gives our church family an option to help out.

Here are some ideas for when it might be nice to have help:

- ◆ a painting project ( It's always more fun to do with others!)
- ◆ technical assistance with a project
- ◆ going to a movie or out to dinner

The "Helping Hands" sign is on the kiosk in the Galena entrance. Write down your need and stick it on the board. Life is more enjoyable and has more meaning as we share our struggles and our joys!

—Sue Evans, Nurture Team

### Alzheimer Dementia Support Group

Whether you simply want a reference point to know what to expect when cognitive changes knock on your loved one's door or find comfort from others who are walking in your same shoes, the Alzheimer Dementia Support group welcomes you. Free meetings are hosted at Maplewood, every 4th Tuesday, 3:00-4:30. RSVP's are not necessary. If you have questions, contact Theresa Grimes at 632-3383.

### Christmas With The Niskas

The Minneapolis/St.Paul based Niskas will celebrate Christmas with traditional and contemporary music for the holiday season along with pop covers. Tickets at the Door are \$23.00, advanced tickets at [www.TheNiskas.com](http://www.TheNiskas.com). The performance will be on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:30pm at the First United Church of Christ in Sauk City.

You are invited to Lodi United Methodist Church for a Community Training event. Madison Police Officers will be here to tell us the safest ways to respond to an intruder who may enter a church or school intent on doing great harm to many people. There are some Do's and Don'ts and it is best if we are as prepared as possible ... hoping we will never need to deal with a mass-shooter situation.

This community training will begin at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Lodi United Methodist Church is located at 130 Locust Street, Lodi. One block west (uphill) from North Main Street on the corner of Locust and Prairie Streets.

It is free and open to the public. The Police Officers will be focusing specifically on church or school locations. Church or school leaders, staff, ushers or any interested adults are welcome to attend.



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00am UM Men at Eagle Inn	2
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship- Holy Communion 6:30pm Advent Study	4 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting at Parsonage	5 7:00pm UMW Christmas Gathering	6 9:30am SOFAS 5:45pm CYF and Confirmation 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	7 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00am UM Men	9
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Community Meal 6:30pm Advent Study	11	12 10:00am UMW Board Meeting	13 5:30pm CYF at the Food Pantry 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	14 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00am UM Men	16
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Wagon Ride 4pm Community Meal 6:30pm Advent Study	18	19 12:00pm Book Club 7:15pm SPRC Meeting	20 5:45pm CYF and Confirmation 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	21 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00am UM Men	23
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 10:30am Light and Remembrance Service 7:00pm Candlelight and Communion Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 8:30am WCC at Leystra's	27 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	28 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00am UM Men	30