



# 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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### 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

secr@concordiaumc.org | 608-643-6356—office



There are a few pictures of me wearing a 1970s hairdo that make me wonder what

I was thinking. I wish someone would have challenged my decision-making faculties. Since I made that hair-raising decision, I've asked myself, "In 20 years, are you going to be mortified to see pictures of yourself with that hairdo; or with that hair color?" That question has led me to make fairly conservative decisions regarding my hair. The reprieve has been that hair does grow so those decisions are never permanent (pun intended). Hair do overs remind me of the love that came down at Christmas.

Although our daily encounters might teach us that we never get a second chance to make a first impression; God's economy is different, more generous, more merciful. God offers us more do overs even when our mistakes cause great harm. Looking at the people who are our faith ancestors, tells us that God does have more do overs for us. That doesn't mean that we should, with malice, cause pain and hurt; but even when we recognize we have done so, God's mercy embraces us. Don't we all at times wish for a chance to do something again when we make mistakes and have the previous attempt not count or be recorded?

There is a New Year's Eve scene in *Forrest Gump*, as they watch the Times Square Ball drop to signal the beginning of a new year, the party girl says to Forrest, "Don't you just love New Year's? You get to start all over. Everybody gets a second chance." What will the new year bring? We decide, with the grace of God and by the grace of God, what we will carry with us into the new beginning, as well as what we will lay down and leave behind.

One of God's gifts is the do over. May God's greatest gifts be yours in the new year.

*Pastor Dan Simpson*

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

Concordia Youth Fellowship will enter 2018 with great thanks for all this congregation is providing us. We have grown to a group of 18 middle and high school students who gather one night a week to leave behind our differences and meet on common ground; to grow our faith and learn. Our focus will start off with setting goals for what we can leave behind and how we can serve God every day in our lives. We will come up with ways to reach out to others and make a difference. We continue to volunteer at the food pantry on Wednesday a night, and are very excited to be a part of the new food pantry community meal on the night we are there. The group will decide what they want to do in 2018 in our early meetings and look for ways to expand our group and how we serve our church, community and world. Spread the word, CYF is a great place to be on Wednesday nights.

## Concordia Sunday School Grades 4K-5

The theme this month in Sunday School is Jesus, the Greatest Prophet (prof-it):

1. a person who speaks for God or a deity, or by divine inspiration.
2. a person chosen to speak for God and to guide people.

Our guiding Bible verse for January is John 6:14-After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the prophet who is to come into the world."

As you pray for this ministry, pray that the peace and love from Christmas transcend into the kids hearts as they learn how Jesus tells us about God.

## January Birthdays

2nd– Halsey Sprecher  
3rd– Irene DeVoe  
7th– Sandra Sandridge  
9th– Henry Halling  
13th– Zachary Zantow  
15th– Gina Accola  
15th– Connie Roundy  
18th– Gary Frey  
18th– Zach Rothmann  
19th– David Haas  
20th– Paxon Koenig  
21st– Jon Carney  
26th– Danielle Smith  
28th– Tim Marshall  
31st– Larry Hinyup



### 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 January

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

**Sunday, January 14: Team Roelke**

**Sunday, January 28: Team ACTS**

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

4:00-6:00pm

Join us and bring a friend!

### Community Meal Update

This past year the number of meals served has increased by approximately 6% when compared to last year. This equates to about another 100 meals served. Since the start of documenting the meals served, from 2013 to the present, the number of meals has increased from around 1150 in 2013 to the current number of just under 1700 meals in 2017. This is a 48% increase in the number of meals served since 2013. The general average for the number of meals served per event has been around 70 meals with a low of 43 to a high of 87. This includes the take-out meals as well as the meals served to the volunteers.

The number of take-out meals has increased as well. In 2013, there was an average of 8 take-out meals per event and in 2017 there was average of 20 take-out meals per event. The range for take-out meals was a low of 9 to a high of 29 meals. Due to the high number of take-out meals, teams have started accumulating take-out orders and then making multiple deliveries at one time instead of individually as was done previously. This is obviously more efficient and saves on the number of delivery trips. Some of the take-out meals are delivered by the guests that attend the meal which also reduces the number of meals that the volunteers have to actually deliver. The take-out meals are a valuable service for the individuals that are unable to attend the meal.

With the increase in the number of meals served, there is always a need for more assistance either in providing food (cooking) for the meals or assisting with the service.

Again I would like to thank all of the volunteers for their work and diligence in helping with this ministry. It could not be accomplished without your assistance and dedication.

As always, if you have questions about this program or are interested in assisting with the community meal program, please feel free to contact Pastor Doris or Dennis Roelke.

## Melodies of Compassion

Our Melodies of Compassion for  
the month of January and February

**Reedsburg Hispanic Ministry**

*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!



**A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!!** I could feel your prayers and love being sent to me when I was having my heart surgery and hip replacement. It was a wonderful feeling! I'm really doing quite well now and it's wonderful being back with you all. Thank you so very much for all the cards and gifts and visits. Christmas blessings to you all!

In Christ's Love, Alice Kindschi

Thank you to the United Methodist Women for the donation to Concordia Youth Fellowship. We are planning to expand our CYF room with an air hockey table with the donation. We are so blessed with receiving this gift as providing options for bringing our youth together during our meetings. Thank you for your support and generosity!

-Concordia Youth Fellowship

Thank you to Concordia for your support and patience in 2017 as I took the position of Administrative Assistant. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone better and having the opportunity to work with so many of you through this position. I feel so blessed to belong to such an amazing congregation of giving and caring people and I look forward to being part of the growth in 2018.

- Laila Drescher

# BUDGET REPORT



## BUDGET NEWS

Budget Receipts for November 2017 \$13,367.52

### Non-Budget receipts for November 2017

Webster Covenant Relationship	\$435.00
Red Bird Mission	\$291.63
Student Offering Day	\$125.00
Hurricane Relief (UMCOR)	\$257.90

### Non-Budget Expenses for November 2017

Completion of Galena Street Entrance	\$8,806.99
Flat Panel Display & Mount (Donor)	\$939.99

### **General Checking Account Summary-Year to Date**

Beginning Balance 1/1/17	\$34,272.53
Receipts	\$175,319.81
Disbursements	\$196,410.07
General Checking Account Balance 11/30/17	\$13,182.27
Capital Improvement Fund 11/30/17	\$139,516.95

**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.

### **SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS**

Second Sunday donations (food, cash, hygiene, household items) for January will go to the HOPE HOUSE.



### **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.

### **Flowers for the Sanctuary**

There is a sign-up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for Sunday morning flowers for the Sanctuary. Flowers may be donated in honor of someone, a special event or important day. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one. Thank you!



## Trustee Report

December 2017

This month and fall there have been several things and projects finished at Concordia in which the Trustees have had oversight. Hopefully you have seen the changes.

The Galena Street entrances, Fellowship Hall and the Narthex entry remodeling is mostly complete. There are some eaves and light fixtures to be installed yet but otherwise it is what it is, and some goals were to look more inviting and continuous in design from Sanctuary to the Fellowship hall. The effort was accomplished by several volunteers over the course of several months. Thanks to all who had a part in this major task.

Also, the new electronic data board in the Narthex entry is sharp and should get your attention and will have information and announcements so take time to check it out each time you come in. Laila is trying to keep it fresh.

In addition, and just in time for the children's Christmas program we were able to place 4 new wireless microphones into service. The improved sound quality of our youthful voices was refreshing as everyone just jumped in and used the mics so nicely.

If you have been a little cold during Sunday School, coffee time and worship it was because only one of the four furnaces were working. That is fixed and all is well and comfortable.

Also, the dungeon area has received a major shuffle and cleaning mostly thanks to Doug Hultberg so now it is a nice place to visit again. Thanks Doug. Just think our predecessors had rest rooms and Sunday school classes down there before the Fellowship Hall addition.

That it for now – see you in church.  
Bruce Koch

## Snow Removal at Concordia

December 6-January 7: Bruce Koch

January 8-January 14: Jeff Virchow

January 15-January 21: Kevin Emshoff

January 22-January 28: Virchow's

January 29-February 4: Emshoff's

Thank you!!!

## Concordia United Methodist Women

Proceeds from the 2017 Holiday Bazaar, totaling \$6,500.00, have been donated to the following organizations:



**SP School District- Children in Need Program**  
**United Methodist Hospital Chaplaincy Ministries**  
**Habitat for Humanity- Sauk County**  
**Northcott Neighborhood House**  
**United Methodist Children's Services**  
**Concordia UMC Youth Fellowship**  
**Hope House**  
**Paul Webster**



A "Very Special Thank you" to all who supported this annual event!

### Concordia Book Club

January- "Forged In Crisis"  
By: Nancy Koehn

Join us for book club on  
Tuesday, January 16th at  
12:00pm



### Upcoming Evens with UMW:

- **UMW Circle Holiday Potluck** will be held on Monday, January 8th starting at 12 noon at the Marty Virchow residence: 1535 Meadowlark Lane, Prairie du Sac. Please bring a dish to pass.
- **UMW Board Meeting** will be on Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00am at the church.
- **UMW Sunday** is on Sunday, January 28th!

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# Who's doing what, when?

## January 7th:

**Ushers:** Mark and Ilene Fritschler  
Kevin and Ethan Emshoff  
**Greeter:** Connie Roundy  
**Acolytes:** Maddy Mauch  
**Liturgist:**  
**Tech Desk:** Doug Hultberg  
**Nursery:** Tom and Roxanne Andres  
**Communion:** John and Joanne Budd

## January 14th:

**Ushers:** John and Joanne Budd  
Don Wenzel and Bob Bahr  
**Greeters:** Claire Joyner  
**Acolytes:** Evie Fritsch and Bella Enge  
**Liturgist:** Suzanne Paskey  
**Tech Desk:** Pat Mings  
**Nursery:** Jane Cordero  
**Community Meal:** Team Roelke

## January 21st:

**Ushers:** Youth  
**Greeters:** Youth  
**Acolytes:** Ava and Otis Andres  
**Liturgist:** Youth  
**Tech Desk:** Bruce Koch  
**Nursery:** Leslie Koch

## January 28th:

**Ushers:** Tim and Kari Marshall  
Pat Yanke and Renee Grunewald  
**Greeters:** Don and Sandy Wenzel  
**Acolytes:** Matthew and Alyssa Wenzel  
**Liturgist:**  
**Tech Desk:** Irene DeVoe  
**Nursery:** Kari Marshall

Thank you to everyone who is willing to service in the roles listed above. We are especially in need of liturgists. If you would be willing, please contact the church office.

If you find that you're not able to serve as scheduled please contact the church office.

Church office contact information:  
608-643-6356 or [secr@concordiaumc.org](mailto:secr@concordiaumc.org).

## JANUARY READINGS:

### January 7th:

Isaiah 60:106  
Psalm 72:1-7, 1-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### January 14th:

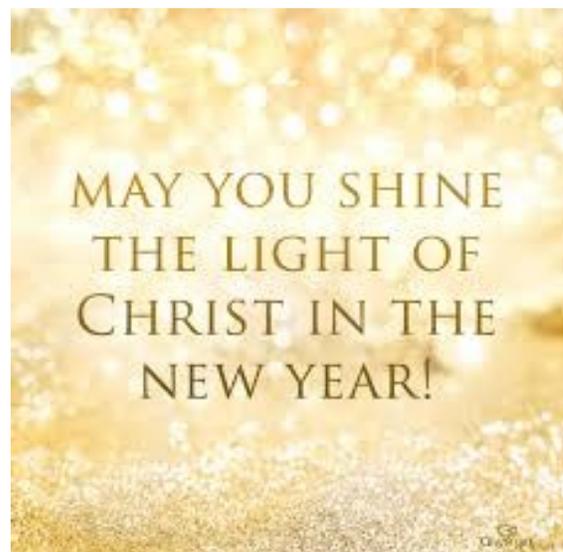
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### January 21st:

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### January 28th:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28



## In The Bleak Midwinter

*"In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago."*

*Christian Rosetti (Words), Gustav Holst (Music)*

A seminary professor once taught, "The Christian year is twelve months long, but the year with Christ is only eleven months long." What he meant is that this season of Advent is a time before – before Jesus' birth, before the coming of Messiah, before salvation. In our current world, humanity tends to race toward the finish, jump to the end, and cut out the unpleasant part to get to the good stuff. Advent has become such a time in the Church. Rather than explore the world in the absence of a Savior, we fill Advent with Christmas. We know how the story turns out, so we bring the angels and the shepherds and the magi – and even the baby in the manger – to the season of Advent. Many churches sing Christmas carols that celebrate the birth and proclaim the joy well in advance of the event. No longer do we wander the weeks of Advent in hopeful hopelessness and deep darkness; we fill Advent with Christmas.

But when we fill Advent with Christmas, we lose something precious – we lose the miracle. Advent is not so much a looking toward the birth of Christ, but a time of looking around to fully appreciate why we so desperately need a Savior. Look around. Look at a world where there is so much fear. Look at a world of gross injustice. Look at a planet being ravaged and destroyed. Look at the economic injustice that leads to abject poverty. Look at the hopelessness and despair that leads to terrorism and escalating acts of violence. Look at a world where the rhetoric of hate and hostility makes the threat of war a daily concern. Live with this world. Feel its pain and need. Don't dismiss it. Don't ignore it. Don't despise it. And don't give up.

Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined." Indeed, this is a glorious prophecy of hope, but it recognizes that before the light, there was darkness. Before healing, there was brokenness. Before dawn was a deep, dark night. The miracle and power and joy of the light exist in contrast to the darkness. The joy to come is only joy because of the despair it displaces.

Advent is the time before. Let us not make haste to put it behind us. Let us not deny it. Let us not jump into Christmas, simply because we can. Jesus is not here yet. The shepherds have no inkling of what is to come. The magi are just now packing for the journey. The angels are rehearsing in their heaven. And all is NOT right with the world.

*Gracious God, hear us. All around us we see cause for despair. People are starving; many live on the street. The vulnerable are abused; physically, sexually, emotionally, and culturally. The rich get richer, while the poor lose the little they have. Wars break out; weapons abound; and many see violence as their best solution to a hopeless existence. Help us, Lord. It should not be like this. We wait, Lord, in darkness; but how long must we wait? How long, O Lord, until we see your blessed light? Amen.*

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.

### **Bulletin Sponsors**

**Please consider sponsoring a bulletin at \$10.00 per week. Proceeds will help defray the cost to print our weekly bulletins.**



**Choir Rehearsals  
are on Thursdays  
At 6:30pm**

***New members are welcome and needed! We usually sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month September through May. We'd love to see you there!***

**Handbell Choir practices are on  
Wednesdays  
at 6:00 pm.  
For more information or  
questions, please call  
608-370-6210.**

