



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

Concordia Chimes

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

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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Our Easter season begins Sunday at dawn! While we can, at all times, celebrate the new life given to us by God through Jesus Christ; through these forty days of Lent we have been growing our relationship with the God we know through Jesus. I don't know how many people have come into the sanctuary and listened for the voice of God using the prayer places which have taught our children about how to listen for God's voice. I do hope that these prayer places have been of benefit to you. If not as places of prayer for you, it my hope that they have served to remind you to more closely listen to God speaking to you.

As we did on Maundy Thursday last year, the focus of our 7:00 pm Thursday evening service will be the Triduum—recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth. We will celebrate the Last Supper, and go to the garden of Gethsemane with Jesus, through his death and the day of mourning for his followers because all hope was gone.

We will worship with our faith brothers and sisters on Friday at 1:00 and 6:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church. The Ecumenical Choir will be presenting *"The Final Hours: A Suite for Holy Week"*. At 8:00 am on Sunday we will continue Concordia's tradition of our youth leading the early Sunday service. The youth will be proclaiming the power of God in Christ in overcoming the power of brokenness. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion. In speaking about the coming kingdom of God, Isaiah had a vision of a time when *"The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them."* We have ascribed this passage as a foretelling of Jesus. I am also reminded of the role our youth take as they lead us and our community of faith each year at our early Easter service (as well as the third Sunday during the school year). It is so great a blessing to Concordia. The seeds of hope and love and mercy are scattered all around us waiting to take root.

The Witness Team will be serving the annual Easter Brunch following the early service at 9:00 am. The menu includes: a variety of egg bakes, fruit salad, sweet breads and beverage.

Our second service of praise will be at 10:30 as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. We will raise our *hosannas and alleluias* and our affirmations of new life. The music of the organ will swell and fill the sanctuary with music as we sing the well-loved songs of resurrection. The Handbell Choir will ring out the hope reborn in the new life given to Jesus' and the promise fulfilled in our lives. We will proclaim the power of God and share again in Holy Communion the unity which we have received. All who have been planning and preparing for our faith family to celebrate this most sacred of God-events are also praying that our worship will be imbued with the presence and love of God. As we continue to prepare, we invite you to prepare your spirits for how the Risen Christ will speak to you through your worship and praise.

Pastor Dan Simpson



April Birthdays

1st- Leslie Koch
1st- Mckenzie Halling
2nd- Roger Cole
5th- Karmin Enge
6th- Gareth Alyea
6th- Trevor Alyea
8th- Chuck Frank
8th- Amy Lang
8th- Sara Nehring
9th- Tatum Schroeder
10th- Doug Hultberg
10th- Gillie Fritsch
12th- Deklan Koenig
15th- Jane Cordero
17th- Nancy Maschman
24th- Tim Enge
24th- Carson Enge
25th- Dan Halling
25th- Dan Marshall
26th- Steve Wolfe
26th- Alex Lang
27th- James Allen
28th- Maddy Mauch
30th- Lisa Alyea



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 April

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

Sunday, April 8th: Team Roelke

Sunday, April 29th: 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!

Concordia Youth and Sunday School Building Bridges of Faith

During the past month we focused on building our faith through teaching the message of Easter. Our Sunday School kids made homemade clay and learned about kneading bread and Communion. They took their clay, after watching it be made, and created a symbol of Easter. Many children created crosses and bird nests. We talked about spring and the beauty of starting fresh and new. What a blessing all our children are with their creativity and the message they give about new life!

The youth group attended a few of the Wednesday evening Lenten Worship services. In April we will focus on starting new with lots of hiking and talking about the beauty all around us...people and nature!

We welcome any adults in the congregation that enjoy cooking to help us out with our Wednesday evening group meal. If you share the meal you get the opportunity to eat with 20 teenagers! We listen and share about our week and about how God is working through each one of us. What a joy it is to have so many unique and awesome kids in both Youth and Sunday School.



Upcoming Volunteers in Mission Trips:



April 14-22
Disaster Relief-SE Wisconsin



July 30-August 3
United Methodist Children's Services

August 20-31st
Fairbanks, Alaska

www.wisconsinumc.org

Concordia VIM Team
Home from North Carolina Trip
The VIM Team will be doing a presentation from their experiences in North Carolina. Watch for information on their presentation date!



BUDGET REPORT



BUDGET NEWS	
Budget Receipts for February 2018	\$13,405.82
<u>Non-Budget receipts for February 2018</u>	
U.M. Children’s Services	\$136.36
Paul Webster, Zambia	\$77.00
UMCOR	\$185.35
General Checking Account Summary-Year to Date	
Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$20,852.94
Receipts	\$41,705.78
Disbursements	\$41,300.09
General Checking Account Balance 1/31/18	\$21,258.63
Capital Improvement Fund 12/31/17	\$122,483.37

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**.

Concordia offers 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.

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!



To all committee chairpersons:
Please submit your committee report for the next church council meeting to the church office by April 2nd. Please use the report form that was provided to you by email or request a copy of the form from the church office. Thank you!

SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS

Second Sunday donations (food, cash, hygiene, household items) for April will go to Sauk Prairie 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.



STOCK THE SCHOOLS

Sauk Prairie Schools Students in Need

Specific items will be collected each month and distributed to students in need through the SP School District.

There is a bin located in Fellowship Hall to place your donated items.

The collection items for April are:
Individual Packages of Pretzels or Cheese-its
\$25.00 gift cards to Piggie Wiggly, Sentry, Kwik Trip or Walmart for purchasing specific items for students.

Women's Retreat **At Lake Lucerne Camp** **April 27-29**

Theme: Come Walk in God's Light

Some of the workshops are Bible study, gardening, candlelight flower arrangement, stamping, cooking and watercolor painting



See Emily Carncross for more information!

Melodies of Compassion

Our Melodies of Compassion for the months of March and April will go to

United Methodist Children Services

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



On Tuesday, February 27th, a small fire occurred at UMCS. Because of the fire, the Family Resource Center will be closed until early April for repairs and a family from the affected unit has been displaced. Visit umcs-wi.org for information on ways to help the family and Family Resource Center during this time of need.

Upcoming Events with UMW:

- **UMW Board Meeting** will be on Tuesday, April 3rd at 10:00am at the church.
- **UMW Sponsored Spring Brunch** will be on Saturday, April 7th at 10:00am at the church. The Deadline to sign up is Thursday, April 5th. See information below.
- **2018 Holiday Bazaar** plans are underway! Yes! We know it is 9 months away, but projects and ideas are flowing in our minds already! We are in need of some items that you may have around the house and are no longer using.
 1. Greeting cards; any occasion or holiday we will accept, but especially birthday and Christmas cards
 2. Canning jar rings, small or large sizes!
 3. Glass Jars- any size, shape or color
 4. Blue wine bottles
 5. Non-florescent old light bulbs

You can leave these items in the kitchen on the counter between the refrigerators. If you have questions, contact Mary Peetz or Mary Clark.

Spring Brunch Saturday, April 7th

Brunch will be served at 10:00am

Program following presented by
Laura McReynolds from New Life Lavender
and Cherry Farm in Baraboo

All women of the church are invited.
Friends are welcome!
Please RSVP on the back
of the sheet in your Sunday bulletin insert and placing
in the collection plate, on the sheet in
Fellowship Hall or leave a
Message with the church office (643-6356)

Sponsored by
Concordia United Methodist Women

No charge. Free will offering accepted.



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Who's doing what, when?

April 1: Sunrise Service

Ushers: Lydia Emshoff, Bella Enge,
Sam Drescher, Ellis Kirner
Greeter: Concordia Youth
Acolytes: Anna Drescher
Liturgist: Concordia Youth
Tech Desk: Doug Hultberg
Nursery: No Nursery Provided
Communion: Ella Drescher, Evelyn Kirner,
Emma Kenyon

April 1: 10:30am Easter Service

Ushers: John and Joann Budd,
Don Wenzel
Greeters: Amy Willey
Acolytes:
Liturgist: Suzanne Paskey
Tech Desk: Doug Hultberg
Nursery: No Nursery Provided

April 8th:

Ushers: Larry Hinyup, Verlyn Mueller
Pam Dickson, Irene DeVoe
Greeters: Paul and Karen Ladd
Acolytes: Maddy Mauch
Liturgist: Kevin Emshoff
Tech Desk: Pat Mings
Nursery: Greg and Anni Mauch
Community Meal: Team Roelke

April 15th:

Ushers: Concordia Youth Group
Greeters: Concordia Youth Group
Acolytes: Evie Fritsch and Bella Enge
Liturgist: Ella Drescher
Tech Desk: Bruce Koch
Nursery: Scott and Lisa Alyea

April 22nd:

Ushers: Tim and Kari Marshall
Pat Yanke, Renee Grunewald
Greeters:
Acolytes: Ava and Otis Andres
Liturgist:
Tech Desk: Irene DeVoe
Nursery: Sue Evans

April Readings

April 1– Easter Youth Service

John 20:1-29

April 1– 10:30am Easter Service

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8, 1:1

April 8-

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 15-

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 22-

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

April 29-

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8



April 29th:

Ushers: Tom and Mary Clark
Jane Cordero, Suzanne Paskey
Greeters: Lyla Sprecher
Acolytes: Brody Wolfe
Liturgist:
Tech Desk:
Nursery: Steve and Lisa Wenzel
Community Meal: Team ACTS

The Journey: Walking the Jesus Walk

Kathleen Thomerson's 1970 song of commitment, *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, is so innocent and hopeful on the surface that it is easy to miss the gravity and importance of the sentiment. What does it truly mean to walk as a child of the light? What do we mean when we say we want to follow Jesus? Do we think it is easy, that we already are doing it? When we claim that Jesus is the "star of our life," would anyone else describe us this way? I wonder.

While I walked the path of Jesus – from Bethlehem to the wilderness desert and through the sacred sites around and within Jerusalem – my Lenten journey was transformed. My imagination and thinking were challenged in creative ways through the place we call "Holy Land." I reflected on John the Baptizer's words from the opening verses of Mark's gospel – "After me comes one who is mightier than I – I baptize with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." I believe myself baptized by this same Holy Spirit. But what does this really mean?

The wilderness in today's Israel-Palestine is a stark contrast to our day-to-day experience in the United States. It forced me to reflect, "What do I take for granted? What do I expect? What comforts do I demand?" I saw my materialism for what it really is. To be the leader I believe I should be, I want to pray more, intentionally fast more, meditate more, and actively work to build and strengthen my relationship to the God I say is so important. I need to actually give credence to my claim to want to follow Jesus, the star of my life. I cannot allow other things to get in the way. I must say no to the comfortable me, the modernized me, the compromised me. I need to align my lived actions to my articulated values. I need to seek integrity – that what I do matches what I say, and vice versa. Wilderness time makes me think this way – in the desert I am much less self-reliant, and by giving up having to be in charge, I am much more ready to be who God calls me to be.

I am talking about discovering the true heart of humility – less of me and more of God. My own wants, needs, hopes, and desires are important, but they are less important than knowing and doing the will of God. Too many things get in the way of deep contemplation and discernment, thus preventing me from giving proper attention to God's will. Desert time is the remedy for this. In the wilderness, we have so few resources to draw from. In the rocky, dry, sandy hills and mountains, a person is stripped of all creature comforts and support. It is easy to see why desert fathers and mothers spent so much time in prayer and devotion – and fasting.

As a member of the Board of Bread for the World, I regularly observed the discipline of fasting. On the 21st of every month, board members join together in a fast, and give their focus to spiritual discipline. Beyond an act of devotion to God, fasting is an act of solidarity with the poor and hungry in our world. We too often take for granted a full stomach, a delicious meal, and the means to provide for self and family. We do not regularly experience true hunger, and even when we do, we have assurance that it is a temporary and easily remedied discomfort. But with regular fasting comes enlightenment and an awareness that food is a large justice issue in our world. For those who have all that we could need and want, it is essential that we become mindful of those who suffer not only lack, but the means to change their daily struggle for enough simply to live. We should become advocates for the poor and hungry in our world. And don't just think of poor underdeveloped countries – the hungry and malnourished live in all of our cities, towns, villages, and states. In the most resource rich country in the world, millions go to bed hungry every night.

Lent will soon be coming to an end with the celebration of another Easter resurrection. This is good. But not if it allows us to leave the wilderness behind and get back to "normal." My prayer is that we can all walk the Jesus walk where we will all be reshaped, reformed, and refocused by the wilderness time of Lent. And as we enter the desert of other people's lives, may we become a source of living water that can refresh and bring new life to those in need. May God work a transformation miracle in each one of us. Glory to God!

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.



HELPING HANDS!

The nurture committee is looking for ways to promote and expand the helping hands church family opportunities that are available. This is how you can get involved!

** We are currently compiling a list of people that are willing to drive other members of the church to appointments. If you are willing to be added to the list, please contact the church office.

** If you have "jobs" that you could use help with around your home, please call the church office. We have people willing to help each other out!

Contact the church office if you have time to give or if you need a helping hand!

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.

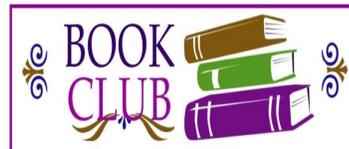


United Methodist Summer Camps!



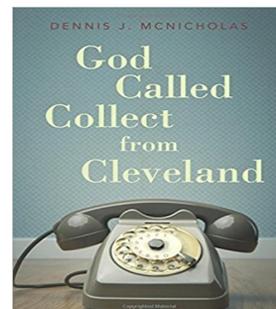
Treehouse Adventures
Video Game Adventures
Backpack Journeys
Grandparents/Grandkids Camp
Family Camp
AND SO MUCH MORE!

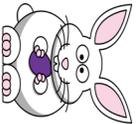
www.WIUMCamps.org



April Book:
God Called Collect from Cleveland

By: Dennis J. McNicholas
Join us for book club on
Tuesday, April 17th
12:00pm





April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00am Worship-CYF and Communion 9:00am Easter Brunch 10:30am Easter Worship-Communion	2	3 10:00am UMW Board Meeting	4 9:30am SOFAS at Eagle Inn 6:00pm CYF and Confirmation 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	5 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00am UM Men at Eagle Inn	7 10:00am UMW Spring Brunch
8 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Community Meal	9 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting	10 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	11 5:00pm CYF at the Food Pantry 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	12 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00am UM Men	14
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship-Youth Sunday	16 6:30pm Nurture Committee Meeting	17 12:00pm Book Club 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	18 6:00pm CYF and Confirmation 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	19 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00am UM Men 6:00pm Non-profit 6:30pm Sunday School Meeting	21
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	23	24 8:30am WCC at Eagle Inn 6:30pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm Outreach Committee Meeting	25 6:00pm CYF and Confirmation 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	26 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00am UM Men	28
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Community Meal	30 6:30pm Sunday School Meeting					