



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
Volume 40 Number 1
January 2019

What's inside?

From the Pastor	Page 2
Budget Report	Page 3
Birthdays	Page 3
Electronic Giving	Page 3
Concordia Youth	Page 4
Concordia Nursery	Page 4
Sunday School	Page 4
Zelpha's Pantry	Page 5
2019 Melodies of Compassion	Page 5
Community Meals	Page 5
Second Sunday Donations	Page 5
Coffee Fellowship	Page 5
UMW Holiday Potluck	Page 6
Soup and Sustenance	Page 6
Stock the Schools	Page 6
A "Ringing" Thanks	Page 7
Thank you!	Page 7
Letter from Bishop Hee-Soo Jung	Page 8-9
Giving—Invitation January 2019	Page 9
Who is Doing What and When?	Page 10
Calendar	Page 11

We're on the Web!

Don't forget that Concordia has a web page. You can find us online at www.concordiaumc.org. You'll see weekly updates with information about upcoming events. You can also find videos of the handbell "concert" from Dec. 2, the choir mini-cantata from Dec. 9, and the Sunday School Christmas program from last week. If you haven't already, you can also "Like" Concordia's Facebook page. Check it out!



Vision Statement of the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

Resident Bishop: Hee-Soo Jung
Asst. to the Bishop: Dan Dick
SW District Supt: Scott Carlson



Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am– 1:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am-1:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm

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.



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



In the Disney movie, "Pinocchio", Jimmy Cricket sings, *"When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are; anything your heart desires will come to you. If your heart is in your dream, no request is too extreme. When you wish upon a star, as dreamers do."*

The golden hopes in children's hearts have been tarnished through the years by that song because life experience tells us that 'anything our hearts desire' do not always come to us. If our extreme dreams do not come true, it's because we haven't wished hard enough, or long enough, or right enough. As much as she wished, a little girl never got the Barbie. As much as he wished, a little boy was never given a bb gun. The reason did not matter-whether the cost was prohibitive, or family income was out of necessity, used for rent and heat and food, or if there were ethical values for denying the children their extreme wish; the catchy tune and words of the song proved false. Anything or everything your heart desires does not come true.

When they were looking to the skies, wishing on stars, the wise ones were looking for more than gold and frankincense and myrrh. They had those valued goods. The wise ones were looking for something more essential which they did not possess. They looked to the skies for signs of something that had greater value; something which was beyond what they knew. They were looking for their hearts desire. There was wisdom in that. Looking at the star-lit night, the wise ones were keenly aware of how small they were and how expansive was all that was above them.

The star was their sign. The star took them away from home, from what they knew for sure, from their comfort. They did not know what they would find; they did not know they would find anything, or anyone- but they were willing to let go of everything they knew for sure, willing to risk losing comfort, reputation, security for the chance to discover their hearts' desires. These students of the stars and seekers of truth ventured out. The light of the star led them beyond the ordinary to expose the holy; to see that which is sacred unveiled through an ordinary child. The power and wonder of love revealed to humans who had eyes to see and hearts to know changed the lives of the wise ones. They beheld the divine.

The power of that love stirred tremendous, irrational fear which led to the murder of babies. The evil forces intensified. There were new levels of viciousness. The child was an extreme menace to their authority; to their power; to their greed.

"It was the night when peace was born, (when hope and joy and love was born). And just as now the world was torn. But all was calm and all was bright; the star above gave out its light. So let your peace shine in the night, (your joy, your love, your hope shine in the night); and let your life burn warm and bright. This peace, (love, hope, joy) we give the world is balm; and in the truth we find our calm. Dear people all around the world, let us unite and we will show, the Light can change us, the Light can help us grow."

This is our celebration!

Blessings,

Pastor Dan Simpson

January Birthdays

1st– Jane Dillon
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
26th– Danielle Smith
28th– Tim Marshall



BUDGET REPORT

BUDGET NEWS

Budget Receipts for November 2018 \$17,027.38

Non-Budget receipts for September 2018

Madison Hospital Chaplaincy	\$14.90
Paul Webster Covenant	\$345.00
World Communion Sunday	\$211.00

General Checking Account Summary-Year to Date

Beginning Balance 1/1/18	\$20,852.94
Receipts	\$232,060.42
Disbursements	\$240,018.95
General Checking Account Balance 11/30/18	\$12,894.41
Capital Improvement Fund 11/30/18	\$22,531.71

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.

Bulletin Sponsors Please consider sponsoring a bulletin at \$10.00 per week to support the cost to print our weekly bulletins.



Flowers for the Sanctuary

There is a sign-up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for Sunday morning flowers for the Sanctuary. Flowers can be in honor in memory of a special person or event. Thank you!

Concordia Youth Fellowship (CYF) and Confirmation

January Dates:

Wednesday, January 2:
6pm-8pm: Confirmation
Sunday, January 6:
9am-10am: Groove Class
Wednesday, January 9:
5:30-8:00pm: Food Pantry
Sunday, January 13:
9am-10am: Groove Class
2pm-3:30pm: Youth Group
Wednesday, January 16:
6pm-8pm: Confirmation
Sunday, January 20:
9am-10am: Confirmation
10am: Serve Coffee
10:30am: Lead Worship
Wednesday, January 23:
5:30-7:00: Youth Group
7pm-8pm: Confirmation
Sunday, January 27:
9am-10am: Groove Class

Concordia Sunday School for all ages!

Children's Sunday School Classes:

Pre-kindergarten– 1st grade: Teacher Irene DeVoe
2nd grade–3rd grade: Teacher Lisa Wenzel
4th grade–5th grade: Teacher Sue Evans
6th grade–8th grade: Teacher Laila Drescher
Sunday School Music: Anni Mauch & Maria Andres

Adult Sunday School Classes:

ACTS Class: Leaders Jeff Virchow and Tom Andres
CARES Class: Leaders John Budd and Bruce Koch
Doubting Thomas Class: Leaders Roger and Jan Cole
Doug and Barb Hultberg

Nurture Congregational Care



Spiritual Formation

Concordia Nursery

Would you help for 1 Sunday?

Nursery is from 10:15-after Worship
on Sunday Mornings



Contact Sue Evans to sign up

Whatever Happened to Zelpha's Pantry?

"Zelpha's Pantry" was an idea of Zelpha Hook's back when Concordia started serving the Community Meals. It was just another way to provide for those that don't always have enough of the basics when it comes to personal hygiene items.

It exists strictly from donations made by the congregation or Community Meal attendees.

Donations are still being accepted and can be placed on the counter in the kitchen or put in the tub (under the counter on the left as you enter the kitchen) labeled "Zelpha's Pantry". Items that are popular are toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, soap, deodorant, etc...



Thanks for helping the Outreach Committee continue what Zelpha Started!

Community Meals January

**Sunday, January 13th:
Team ACTS**
**Sunday, January 27th:
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!

Coffee Fellowship

Sign up (in Fellowship Hall) to bake and serve treats and coffee on Sunday mornings before 10:30am Worship

Thank you!

Outreach

Mission...Mercy...Justice

SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS



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



Hope House

Melodies of Compassion 2019

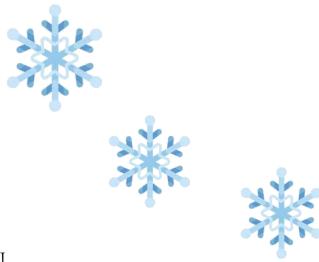
January-February
Madison Chaplaincy
March-April
Hope House
May-June
Northcott Neighborhood Center
July-August
United Methodist Children's Services
September-October
Reedsburg Hispanic Ministries
November-December
Red Bird Mission





**United
Methodist
Women**

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



**There will not be a
UMW board meeting
for the month of
January!**

UMW Holiday Potluck

Tuesday, January 15th- 12:30pm

At the home of Jane Cordero

7140 State Highway 78, Sauk City

Please bring a dish to pass

Table service and beverages are provided

**Soup and Sustenance:
Way Forward Conversation**

**Sunday, January 20th
12:00pm Fellowship Hall**

Soup, Sandwiches, Bread, and Dessert will be served
All are invited for conversation about the proposals that
will be considered at General Conference in February.

There is no sign up and no fee. We hope you will
consider joining Pastor Doris for soup and conversation!



Stock the Schools

For the month of
January:
Will be collecting
Mechanical Pencils,
markers,
and Colored Pencils.



Please place donated
items in the red bin in
Fellowship Hall.
Thank you!

A "Ringing" Thanks!



**John & Joanne Budd
Tom & Mary Clark
De & Louise Enge
Paul & Alice Bishop
Court, Laila, Sam & Addie Drescher
Sue Evans
Jackie Counts
Tom & Roxanne Andres
Pastor Doris
Anne Fiene
Jeff & Marty Virchow
Carol & Stacy Paul
Julia Dellaria-Terrill & Family
Steve, Lisa, Alyssa, & Matthew Wenzel**

**Gordon & Emily Carncross
Doug & Barb Hultberg
Gordon Davis
Ron Rothmann
Betty Frey
Deklan & Paxton Koenig
Paul & Karen Ladd
Alyea Family
Dave & Judi Rogalla
Lew Dillon
Bruce & Leslie Koch
Dave & Pam Dickson
Sharon Kizer & Aschley**

*\$4,250.64
collected during
Concordia ringing!*

Thanks to our GREAT crew of Salvation Army bell ringers!



I want to thank everyone who donated to my National Honor Society Service project; Lynn's Legacy. The money will be used for packaging and additional items added into caring packages for people going through chemotherapy in Sauk County. Your donations of over \$600.00 were very generous and appreciated to help in the success of my project.
Thank You—Evelyn Kirner

Thank you Concordia!

We have met our commitment goal of \$2,500.00 to support Paul Webster's Salary this year!



Contributions over \$2,500.00 have gone to support the Mujila Falls Agricultural Center-Zambia . Total contributions to Mujila Falls- \$982.00

Thank you!

The United Methodist Hospitals Ministry would like to express our sincere appreciation for your congregation's most recent gift of \$335.51. We thank you for your generous and ongoing support. Your gift provides much more than our chaplain John Wells' 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 ones. Thanks to you and members of Concordia for this and your past faithfulness towards this ministry.

Sincerely,
David Sharpe, for the Ministry Committee

Fear Not

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 6:34

Let me share with you what I want more than anything else for Christmas: I would like faith to displace fear as the driving motivational value in our global culture, community, and church. Today's church and world is being torn apart by fear, worry, anxiety, and angst. Fear, in a multitude of disguises – anger, violence, prejudice, exclusion, judgmentalism, caustic rhetoric, suspicion, security systems and weapons, insult comedy, racism, sexism, classism, on and on – makes belief in a redeeming, saving, life-affirming, and generative faith seem irrational, unreasonable, gullible, and immature. Who in their right mind would feel good about our world in its present condition?

Well, God for one. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” In a world of turmoil, conflict, and rampant fear, we have a Messiah, a Savior, a counter-cultural reality that has the power to transform and make all things new.

But fear is a pathology in our society. It has taken root in our very DNA, and it causes us to act and react in some of the most toxic, unhelpful, self-defeating, and destructive ways possible. It seems easier to break things than to fix them; to split apart instead of working together for unity and peace; sacrificing the common good and a universal peace and security for personal, private, and individual short-term, inadequate solutions. Who can we trust? The “other” is strange, foreign, unsettling, dangerous. With this mindset, does the Gospel even stand a chance?

Two phrases in Greek, *mE phobou* and *mE phobeisthe*, occur frequently throughout the Christian scriptures. The first simply means, “be not afraid,” while the second, more specifically and pointedly, means “YOU be not afraid,” and it is both plural and indicative. If a person has faith, fear ceases to be an issue. Faith and fear cannot occupy the same space. Doubt or skepticism are not the opposites of faith; fear is. Where God is present, fear flies out the window. Jesus and Paul share the simple and clear admonition, “do not be afraid.” Don’t make it harder than it needs to be: Jesus Christ, Savior of the World, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Immanuel, Messiah, Lord of All, reigns in us – not fear. If God is for us, who can stand against us?

What will happen to us in February after the special session of General Conference? What happens if our borders allow too many foreigners into our country? What if peace talks break down in Korea? What if China gains too much power? What happens if we allow gay and lesbian leadership in the church? What happens if the other political party gains power? What happens if the other political party stays in power? What about gun violence, disease, computer hackers and identity thieves? Well, what about them? God is greater than any and all of our fears, anxieties, doubts, and delusions.

Continued on next page

What I want most for Christmas is that we regain our center, and we reorient ourselves to God. I want to see God's people of faith to rise above our divisions to be a witness to the power and strength of God's love and grace. I want the world to look at the church and see a better way of being in the world and responding to the causes of so much fear and dread. In short, I want us who have received the miracle of God's love called Christmas, to live as Christmas people every day of the years to come. People of faith, not fear; people of love and grace, not anxiety; people of hope and trust, not suspicion and distrust.

My prayer for all of you, beautiful people of the Wisconsin Conference, is that the peace of Christ may reign and rule in your hearts and minds, and may the Messiah be born again in your life this Christmas.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Giving Invitation—January 2019

*"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
(Matthew 7:7-8)*

Henri Nouwen has said, "Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the Kingdom." If God wants us to build the Kingdom of God, then he wants us to invite others to support it. This is evangelism because the good news is that God has faith in us to build the Kingdom. There are a number of steps in the asking process and asking is a later step, not the first:

Ask God First! We must first trust in God that we can succeed in soliciting support for the missions and ministries we seek to support. We come to God in prayer to ask God for support before asking anyone else.

Love the person you are asking. We must also love the person we are asking for support, giving them the means to become a brother or sister in Christ through their support of the Kingdom. We must trust that the Spirit of Christ that is guiding us is also guiding them.

Ask on behalf of the Kingdom of God. We are asking potential donors to invest in the work of God. Whether their ability to give is great or small, what matters is that they are making their gift available to God.

Be grateful for the answer. Whether the answer is yes or no or maybe or someday, we must be grateful that the person listened and gave us an honest answer. We have offered something of great value and that is what is important to us.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Witness: Worship...Hospitality...Telling the Story

January 6th:

Ushers:

Gordon & Emily Carncross
De Enge

Greeters:

Irene DeVoe & Sue Evans

Acolytes:

Anna Drescher and Evie Fritsch

Communion:

John and Joanne Budd

Liturgist:**Nursery:**

Leslie Koch

Tech Desk:

Doug Hultberg

Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13th:

Ushers:

Kevin Emshoff and Ethan Emshoff
Mark & Ilene Fritschler

Greeters:

Steve, Lisa, Alyssa and Matthew Wenzel

Acolytes:

Eric Emshoff and Gavin Carncross

Liturgist:**Nursery:**

Renee Grunewald

Tech Desk:

Pat Mings

Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20th:

Ushers:

Concordia Youth Group

Greeters:

Concordia Youth Group

Acolytes:

Griffin Fritsch and Gillie Fritsch

Liturgist:

Concordia Youth Group

Nursery:

Suzanne Paskey

Tech Desk:

Bruce Koch

Readings:

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 27th:

Ushers:

Tim & Kari Marshall
Pat Yanke and Renee Grunewald

Greeters:

Craig, Jenn, Gavin and Nolan Carncross

Acolytes:

Carly Schroeder and Max Schroeder

Liturgist:**Nursery:**

Sue Evans

Tech Desk:

Irene DeVoe

Readings:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21



January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30am SOFAS 6pm Confirmation 6:15pm Handbell Practice	3 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00am UMW Men	5
6 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Trustees Meeting	7	8 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	9 5:00pm CYF at Food Pantry	10 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00am UMW Men	12
13 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Youth Group 4pm Community Meal	14	15 12:30pm UMW Holiday Potluck 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	16 1:30pm Memorial Committee Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation	17 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00am UMW Men	19
20 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Soup & Sustenance: Way Forward conversation	21	22 6:30pm Nurture Meeting Committee Meeting	23 5:30-7:00 Youth Group 7pm-8pm Confirmation	24 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00am UMW Men	26
27 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4pm Community Meal	28	29 7:15pm Witness Committee Meeting	30 6:00pm Confirmation	31 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal		