

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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# The Concordian

A monthly newsletter from Concordia Lutheran Church

September  2009

**Concordia's Purpose Statement: To know Christ & to make Him known to others.**

## Carl's Corner

As you are probably aware, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) last week made changes in the church's teaching on homosexuality. It approved the ordination of partnered homosexuals and commitment ceremonies for same gender relationships.

I want you to know up front that I am opposed to the new policies and as your Interim Pastor do not support the new policies in the church. I also would not perform a same sex commitment ceremony.

Given the present turmoil and disagreements in the church, as your pastor, this is my admonition to members of Concordia Lutheran Church:

DON'T PANIC. I have a picture of a dog watching cautiously as a skunk eats out of its dish. Over the picture is a caption that says, "Two of the greatest qualities in life are PATIENCE and WISDOM." Acting impulsively, no matter what side you are on, is not a wise thing to do. Pray. Take a deep breath. Consider carefully the consequences of your actions before you do anything.

BE INFORMED. Maybe for you, letters like CORE, AALC, LCMC or LCMS have very little meaning. These are all expressions of the Lutheran faith. You can access information about other Lutheran organizations on line, or ask someone on the staff or council who they are.

WORK WITHIN THE SYSTEM. Anticipating calling a full time pastor and the possibilities of a change in our church policies, we have worked diligently to put together a Voting Members list. Ultimately, it is the Voting Members assembled at a rightly called Congregational Meeting that will determine Concordia's future. Our constitution outlines the process of re-affiliation if the Voting Members chose to leave the ELCA. Familiarizing yourself with the constitution will help you navigate through future events.



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**BE RECONCILED.** If you decide to leave Concordia, for whatever reason, please do so in a manner that is consistent with our "ministry of reconciliation." Our message as a church is that in Christ, God was in the world reconciling the world to Himself. We therefore have the "ministry of reconciliation." If you leave in an unreconciled manner, it is inconsistent with our proclamation. So, if you make that decision, let the church know that you are leaving, and the reason, so we can part company in peace.

The days ahead of us may be difficult, but God is still on the throne.

Pastor Carl

## CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

We are pleased to announce that the Church Profile is ready for distribution after approval by the Church Council of the compensation schedule. The Profile can be viewed on our website, which has been redesigned and is up and running. The website address is show below. In the near future, we hope to begin distributing the Church Profile to the various Lutheran organizations available to us, along with other online resources. Please continue to keep the Call Committee and Process in your prayers. Please visit the church website at: [www.concordiakingsburg.com](http://www.concordiakingsburg.com)

Patty Anderson, Laurie Bolton, Chad Cotton, Pat Henning, Carl Jobe, June Moran, Claudette Reiser, Frank Singh, Gary Starr, Braden Warren

## WORSHIP PERSONNEL – SEPTEMBER 2009

	6	13	20	27
<b>Greeters</b>	Bev Warren & Karen Prichard	<i>Picnic in the Park</i>	Carl & Carolyn Jobe	Patrick & Leigh Waite
<b>Readers</b>	Lennis Scheline	Karen Prichard	Carl Jobe	Patrick Waite
<b>Head Usher</b>	Jon Carlson	Patrick Waite (Park)	Casey Stout	Jim Moore
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Lennis Scheline		Carl & Carolyn Jobe and Karen Stout	

**NOTE**

**New Email address for Jacquie Johnson: [jacqjohnson1@comcast.net](mailto:jacqjohnson1@comcast.net)**

## PRAYER TEAM RESUMES



The "Prayer Team" resumes meeting monthly beginning Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. Come join fellow Concordia members in this time of prayer and reflection. You need not bring anything except yourself. The team comes together to pray for specific needs of our church, the families within the church, as well as, concerns for our community. We look forward to seeing you at our next time together. We will be having a prayer vigil during the month of October, so watch for the date in upcoming bulletins and place it on your calendar. Don't miss out on this quiet time of conversation between you and God without interruption. If you have any questions about this group, contact Mary King, Prayer Team Coordinator, at (559) 970-0137.

## Many Thanks To Those Talented Computer Techs

A *HUGE* thank you to **Reggie Gierke** who put in many hours redesigning and updating our Website. It looks great and will be a great resource both to our congregation and to those wanting to learn more about Concordia. **Lennis Scheline** also deserves our heartfelt thanks for the many years he has maintained our website as well as his assistance in the transition to the updated site. This is our chance to thank those behind the scenes people who do so much for us as we go about the mission of spreading the Good News of Christ.



## SHREDDED BEEF BURRITO SALE FUNDRAISER – A SUCCESS!!



We want to thank each and every one of you who supported us by purchasing **burritos** or by working along side of us during our Burrito Sale. This fundraiser, which brought in a total of \$1500, was for the "Concordia's Outreach Program Fund". We have given our families money cards for them to buy their children school supplies or a new outfit to start school this year. This money will also be used this Christmas Season for food and clothing for our families and their children. As we have said before, "By you helping us, we are able to help others" and for that we are very grateful. Sincerely, Frank & Juanita Singh

## Ever Thought About Becoming A Stephen Minister?

Concordia Lutheran Church will be training another class of Stephen Ministers soon. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastor to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. If you think you might be interested, talk with George Webb.

***We Need More New Recruits!!!!!! IMMEDIATELY!!!***

You will work undercover, spreading God's word. The FBI (Foam-filled Bible Interpreters) Puppet Squad is now training new agents (8+ years of age) on **Monday Nights at 7 PM** in the Concordia Lutheran Church basement. You can be a prop, puppeteer, costumer, or provide much needed arm support. If you are interested in being a part of our team, please call me (Rose Brandt – 897-2642). I look forward to working with you.



## New Church Policies Regarding Sexuality

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The following are the actual decisions made by the 2009 ELCA Church-wide Assembly with a clarifying summary in parentheses:

The assembly adopted 676-338 -- precisely two-thirds of those voting -- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with minor editorial amendments. It also adopted a series of implementing resolutions with amendments. **(A new Sexuality policy was adopted.)**

**Resolution 3:** "RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all." **(Resolved to respect and love each other despite our differences.)**

**Resolution 1:** "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships." **(Allow; for commitment ceremonies in the church for same gender relationships.)**

**Resolution 2:** "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church." **(Allow; ordination of persons living in same gender relationships.)**

**Resolution 4:** This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved; and stated that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry. **(Call; on everyone to respect the "bound conscience" of other Lutherans.)**

## Special Congregational Meeting

By unanimous decision of the Concordia Church Council, a special Congregational Meeting has been called for Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The purpose of the meeting is to consider a council recommendation to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and join an alternative and recognized Lutheran organization. In calling for the meeting, the church council expressed concerns with recent changes in ELCA sexuality policies regarding clergy and same gender commitment ceremonies that could directly affect Concordia Lutheran Church and challenge the authority of the Word of God.

Action to leave the ELCA to join another Lutheran organization requires a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members of the congregation present at the meeting.

Two congregational forums will be held prior to the congregational meeting and the vote. The first one is Thursday, Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The second is Sunday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. following worship in the park and lunch. At the forums, you will be given an opportunity to express your opinions on sexuality issues and their affect on our church. You will also have the chance to ask any questions regarding the process.

Regardless of what the congregation decides to do, we remain committed to Christian hospitality extended to ALL persons regardless of ethnic origin, religion, gender, or sexual orientation for worship and fellowship at Concordia.



### **BOUTIQUE WORK DAY!!!** **(November 7th will be here before you know it)**

If you missed the first work day, please join us in the **Fireside Room on Saturday, September 12th from 10am—2pm** for another opportunity to work, share & have fun. Bring your projects and supplies, ideas and a sack lunch. (Drinks and dessert will be provided.)

Thank you to all who came the first day. Your time and talents are very much appreciated. For those that cannot attend or are pressed for time to create something, we have some simple, time efficient, at home projects for you to consider. We'll provide the materials and the ideas.

*For more information, please call Cheryl Gross (897-9342).*

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# Youth News

Wow! Summer is already over and everyone, well...almost everyone, is back in school now and we seem to all be back in the mode of busyness. I am excited to see where God leads our youth ministry this year. I have spent the entire summer planning out topics for our High School ministry and creating new curriculum for our confirmation class. In the High School ministry, we will be tackling the topic of having a Christ Centered Life and are calling it "Surviving High School." We will explore all the different aspects of high school life and see if we can't connect our high school lives with our Christian lives. Shouldn't they be one in the same? Come and find out. In Confirmation class, we will be running through the ENTIRE Bible, from cover to cover. WOW! This will be a fun series to tackle. We will attempt to cover every story, and every character of the entire Bible before Confirmation Sunday in May. We have about four students in confirmation this year and I'm excited to be working so close to the parents this year. May God be in all of our conversations this year and with the students and parents of our youth as we all try to grow closer to God and set the example for generations to come.

Your Servant in Christ,

Braden Warren

## High School Schedule — Sunday Nights 6:30-8:30 pm

Sept 6: No Youth Group—enjoy your labor day weekend

Sept 13: Homosexuality

Sept 20: Gossip "Did You Hear...?"

Sept 27: We are going to McDermont Field House

## Confirmation Schedule — Wednesday 3:30-5:00 pm

Sept 2: **The Human Condition**, The fall of man and God's plan

Sept 9: **The Flood**, God's covenant with Noah and his promise to us

Sept 16: **Abram and Sarai**, How they became Abraham and Sarah

Sept 23: **Sarah, Hagar, and Abraham**, The cost of one man's choice

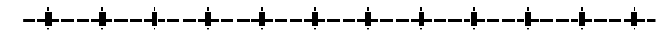
Sept 30: **Isaac and Rebekah**, God's divine plan for their lives

## Concordia's Discovery Kingdom...



Invites you to be a part of our children's continuing Christian education. We are looking for teacher volunteers to teach a minimum of 2 Sunday's in any given month starting September 20, 2009. All course material is put together and provided for you. We currently have 5 different classrooms to choose from, and teacher assistants are available. This year's curriculum is, "God Feeds Us".

Please contact either, Carl Jobe at 897-8148, or Michelle Stone at 897-3008.



## PHOTO FUNDRAISER



On Sunday, September 13, at our worship in the Downtown Park and on Sunday, September 20, during fellowship between services, you will have the opportunity to purchase copies of the photographs of the church at night with the exterior lighting. All of the profit will be used for the purchase of additional chairs for the lower auditorium for the youth Munch Box program. Thrivent will provide matching funds up to \$340.00. The photographs will be on display at the Park and also in the Fireside Room where they are on permanent display.



## ACOLYTES NEEDED!

Any youth (sixth grade and up) are invited to become an acolyte for the Second Service. Confirmation students, especially, are highly encouraged to participate – even if it's once every-other month. Please contact Donna Webb at 897-9648 if interested.

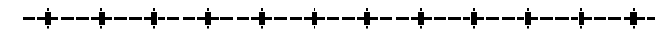
## Acolytes for September

September 6: Marissa Baker

September 13: *Picnic in the Park*

September 20: Thorbjorn Moore

September 27: Spencer Gunland



## CHURCH CHOIR RETURNS!

It's time again! September has rolled in, and with it comes the return of our church choir! I invite you, everyone with an interest or ability, to join us on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the sanctuary, starting September 9th, for choir practice. For those not joining us, you may listen to the choir sing starting on September 20th at the 11 o'clock service. I hope to see you there!

Mary Williams

