



OUR MISSION

Creating a Christ-Centered community gathered together...To joyfully worship our God... To grow in faith and knowledge...To love one another...And to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – 9:00 AM

with Communion

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – 4:00 PM

(ASH WEDNESDAY)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – 9:00 AM

with Communion

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – 4:00 PM

(MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 – 9:00 AM

**Online Services will continue on Facebook and
YouTube**

Pastor's Message

Believers In the Know

It's our nature to want to be "in the know". We want to know the latest weather forecast. When will the sub- zero cold break? Will the next snowstorm miss us? We want to be up on the latest sports talk. Who's favored to win the Super Bowl? There's also the latest political gossip. What's the media saying about our president? What's our president saying about the media? And of course, we want to be up on what's being said in

the family grapevine. When is So-and-so's son getting married? When is your granddaughter due?

Obviously, *many* things are not essential to know. In regard to *certain* things, however, we convince ourselves that we must know what's going on. I must know how I will fair this next year financially. Am I going to be laid off? Will I be required to reenter the painful process of job hunting? Can I retire or will the economy dictate that I put in a couple more years? There's also the matter of my health or the health of a loved one. What will the risks be should I undergo a certain surgery? How soon will Mother be required to move out of her home? Will she be able to live with us? I also want to know my future with respect to a given relationship. What if So-and-so refuses to go out with me? What if my parents split up? What if my husband or wife gets even sicker? What if he or she dies? Not being in the know makes us feel vulnerable, fearful, even angry.

The question is whether we have a right to feel afraid or angry. As it happens, something finally occurs to us with the Lord's help. As God alone can answer our urgent questions, we may adopt a whole new way of looking at things. Perhaps we don't need to know so much. Reflect for a moment on the love of our Savior. According to the apostle,

Jesus' love "*surpasses knowledge*" (Ephesians 3:19). In one sense, his love is *more* than we can know. Can we truly know, for example, why Christ would choose to love us sinners, knowing already all the dirty details about our sin? He knows about the many gods we've permitted to exist beside him. He knows how we have loved ourselves over and above our neighbor. We've brought harm to our neighbor's possessions, his body, his name and his relationships with others. We have not loved God with all our heart, soul and mind. Yet Jesus loves us without exception from start to finish.

The Lord's love, additionally, is more than we can know when we ponder his apparent silence. Let's say you *do* lose your job. Or your mother *is* required to move in with you and her needs are more than you can handle. Or let's say your parents *do* split up, or your husband or wife *does* get sicker and dies. You want to know how the Lord will work something good and beneficial from this. But, it would seem he's lost his voice. All you can do is believe once again that his love surpasses knowledge. It is more than you can comprehend.

In one sense Christ's love is *more* than we can know. In another sense, however, we come to know everything we *need* to know. Scripture tells us we can know how wide and long and high and deep his love is (Ephesians 3:18). That is to say, we may not know everything about the *why* of Christ's love, but we do know about the *what* and the *how*. Our Savior loves us so much that he offered up his life on the cross to serve as the all-atoning sacrifice for our sins. Though we were not deserving of his love in any way, he made himself to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21) so that we may receive from our Father every needed blessing in life.

So, it's not what you or I *don't* know that matters so much in the end. It's what we *do* know. Our Lord chose to reveal in part his immeasurable love to us. Christ has redeemed us. He's made us his own. And so will he surely care for us both in this life and the next. Knowing this *little* or this *much*, we are "in the know".

Pastor Preus

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – February 2021

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason,

source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday is February 17th which is the beginning of our Lenten Season. Our Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Worship time has changed this year, we will hold service at 4:00 pm each Wednesday thru March 24th.

Save The Date For Voters Meeting Feb 28th @ 10:00 am (after service)

Voter's Assembly to vote on Woodbury Lutheran Church merger. If you have any question, concerns, or just want to discuss it, please reach out to any of the board members. We are happy to talk with you.

Online Worship Service Still Available

You can watch our Concordia services and listen to beautiful organ music just by going to our Facebook page at [concordiassp](https://www.facebook.com/concordiassp) and choosing Concordia Lutheran, on the left hand side of the page click on videos and choose the one you want to watch or watch it on YouTube by searching Concordia Lutheran Church SSP, be sure to hit the subscribe button. Thank you to everyone involved in making this available to the congregation!

Private Communion

Private Communion is available. We ask that you call the church office to set up an appointment time.

Personal Daily Devotions and Offering Envelopes

The January – March Portals of Prayer and 2021 Offering Envelopes have arrived and are now available. We would like to get them into the hands of all who would like them as soon as possible. As we go forward day by day, Portals of Prayer continues to provide us all with readings, messages, and prayers in our walk with God.

We would like to offer to make that happen in a couple of ways:

1. The office is open for pick-up of Portals of Prayer and Offering Envelopes on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. They are located in the narthex for convenient pick-up. No need to arrange a pick-up, just come by.
2. Wednesday or Thursday doesn't work for you? If you would like to go for a drive and pick one up at the church, we can meet you in the parking lot and bring one to your window.
3. We can deliver one and drop it off outside your home.

To work out details with you of either option , please contact Mark at: 651-457-3819 (please leave message if we miss your call) or cstoltenow@gmail.com
Mark Stoltenow.

Quilter's Looking For Fabric

Our Hannah's Quilters are looking for any cotton, flannel, or batting you may be looking to donate. Be on the lookout for extra fabric. Call the church office if you have questions or would like to donate.

Letter Of Thanks

Dear Concordia Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your gift including about 20 beautiful quilts we provided to those in need!

While 2020 brought new challenges and worries, one thing that has not changed is the amazing commitment to our mission from people like you! It is only through your support that our work is possible.

Thank you for being the 'spirit of the season' and for bringing health and hope to your neighbors in need. We wish you a bright 2021!

With Gratitude,
Beth Skwira – Director of Mission Advancement

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Avenson
Paul Helgerson
Neil Olson
Kris Westad

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Board of Community Activities – Sue Ogorek
Board of Elders – Mark Stoltenow 651-283-9541

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

Bruce & Gail Avenson and Cathy Johnston

Announcement And Servant Article Deadline

The deadline for turning in bulletin announcement articles is Wednesday each week by 9 am. The deadline for turning in Servant articles is the third Thursday of each month by 9 am. Email is the preferred method for delivering your article(s).
concordiachurch@qwestoffice.net

February 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1		3	4	5	6
			10:00 am Adult Bible Study	9:00 am Hannah's Quilters	9:00 am Church Cleaners	
	8		10	11	12	13
			10:00 am Adult Bible Study		9:00 am Church Cleaners	
	15		17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day			Ash Wednesday	9:00 am Hannah's Quilters	9:00 am Church Cleaners	
9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study			10:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:00 pm Worship			
	22		24	25	26	27
			10:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:00 pm Midweek Worship		9:00 am Church Cleaners	
	29					
10:am Voters Meeting				Concordia Lutheran Church 255 W. Douglas St. South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309 Worship Service each Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School & Sunday Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Wednesday Adult Bible Study 10:00 am		
9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study						
9:00 am Worship w/communion						



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
255 WEST DOUGLAS STREET
SOUTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55075



So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13