



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.

January Worship Services

SUNDAY,	January 5– 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	January 12 – 9:00 AM with Communion
SUNDAY,	January 19 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	January 26– 9:00 AM with Communion

Pastor's Message

Musing Along the Highway 2

Fog of the Season

Hello friends. I am writing this article the week before Christmas and so because I am up to my earlobes in Christmas worship and preaching, my ability to look ahead is clouded by the fog of the season.

Now the fog is not so much a Problem. Like a fog, this atmosphere is very close and a very part of the air I am breathing. Vision is limited here, but I enjoy the narrowing of focus and intimacy. This time of each year narrows my perspective on the centrality of Christ and His birth to our faith. I am looking forward to my part in Your holiday and pray each day that the Lord will enhance and empower my

service to this corner of His Kingdom. We have had a brief time of getting acquainted and I am feeling more at ease with the worship life and tastes of “all you all.” I feel confident that we can celebrate the joy of Christ’s birth together and wonder at the love that sent Him to be our Immanuel.

What is hard to see is the pathway into the New Year. All things considered; I think with the turn of the New Year it is time to consider my charge as Vacancy/Interim Pastor? My role is many faceted. I am to do the normal pastoral things like preach and do Bible Study. I am also to do the extra pastoral things like minister to the hurt and wounded by consoling with God’s Word and listening. I am hoping that when the year turns that this “extra pastoral” aspect of the ministry will unfold more effectively. Listening and consoling God’s people is a very important aspect of life in a church that has gone through loss. Unless you step forward this very important work will not be done. My hope is that we can gather over a ministry of consolation, and then be well on the road to restoration with assurance of His presence and enlivened by hope.

I believe in a God who restores His people. If I can serve as an instrument of that restoration for you, please step forward. My time and schedule are

yours. I am in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00pm. If you would like to talk, please contact me. My phone number is 216-413-0309. My email address is lwesolik@gmail.com If you would like to stop and talk, please call the church office so I can set time aside just for you. The office number is 651-451-0309.

The New Year is ahead. The Lord is near to us all. I pray His peace and blessing will dominate your days as we face His plans for our future.

Pastor Larry Wesolik

Things to think about:

Jeremiah 30: ¹⁹Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate.

I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small. ²⁰Their children shall be as they were of old, and their congregation shall be established before me, . . .”

Look Forward to Lent this year. Restoration will be the theme. Lent starts on February 26, 2020

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – January 2020

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).

Offering Envelopes

The 2020 offering envelopes are available for pickup in the narthex. If you do not have an envelope assigned to you please let Mark Stoltenow know and he will pass the info on to Miriam and she will be sure to get them for you. Please do not use them before the first Sunday in January as your number has changed from the year before.

Coffee and Treats

Thank you to the following people for providing coffee and treats after worship services in the month of December: Paul Helgerson, Neil & Kimberly Olson, Virgie Wright, Keith & Sue Ogorek, Bruce & Gail Avenson, and Kim & Monica Huebscher. There are slots available to sign up for this fellowship opportunity.

January’s Coffee and Treats sign-up sheet is posted on the new “sign-up table”. This is important way for us to spend time together in fellowship after worship service. Please stop by and sign up for a Sunday to provide treats. Coffee and lemonade are provided by the church. For those of you who would like to participate, but feel they cannot serve, feel free to donate money for a Sunday treat to Sue Ogorek. I will help facilitate buying the treat and serving. If you have any questions, please see me. Thank you.

Hannah’s Quilters Christmas Lunch

On Thursday, December 5th our Hanna’s Quilters held their annual Christmas Luncheon. Every year during their lunch, they present the many quilts they made over the past year. This year they presented 32 quilts to Neighbors, Inc. and Children’s Hospital. These quilts will be a welcome gift to keep someone warm and cozy this winter.

Thank you to the Hannah’s Quilters of Concordia Lutheran for the great quilts and comfort you provide to our community!



Pictured seated left to right, Madella Bous, Lois Groves, Muriel Rose, and Darcy Wetzel (from Neighbors, Inc.) Pictured Standing left to right, Jan Wilke, Bruce Baumeister (Thrivent Financial), Nancy Bell, Pastor Wesolik, and Beth Skwira (from Neighbors, Inc.)



Future Sign-Up Sheets

As we start the New Year in a couple of weeks, we are going to try to eliminate the use of posters and tri-pods in an effort to keep our Narthex welcoming and easier for our Friday cleaning crew. All sign-up event sheets will be posted on the sign-up table next to the west bulletin board in the Narthex. Please stop by often and check out the up-coming church events.

January Fellowship Dinner

Please watch for a future announcement about the January Fellowship Dinner. Plans are being made for this event.

Special Christmas Service Was Held

What a wonderful service this was on Tuesday, December 17th for Concordia's shut in members who have not had the opportunity to attend church for physical reasons. These members along with other members of Concordia enjoyed singing some of their favorite Christmas hymns celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pastor Wesolik gave a short sermon. Members were able to come near the alter and partake in the Lord's Supper. A lunch was served afterwards and everyone joined in a time of fellowship and renewing their long time acquaintances. This will be a day that will be remembered by many.

Thank you to Pastor Wesolik and the many people at Concordia that helped make this event so very special.



Ushers Needed

Ushering on Christmas Eve w/communion (4:00 PM) and Christmas Day (9:00 AM.) We are in need of crews for both services. If you can help out, please sign up on the sheet on the small table in the hallway. Up to 4 individuals would be ideal. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Stoltenow (651-283-9541).

Also, if you are interested in ushering for the upcoming year on a regular basis, please let me know. A commitment of once during every 4-5 weeks would be ideal. If you would be available on a less regular basis, let me know that as well.

Thank you,

Mark Stoltenow

Save The Date

On Sunday, January 26th a reception will be hosted recognizing a very special and talented person...our very own Beth Ekblad. Beth has blessed our worship services with her music in so many ways. Her commitment to Concordia has been above and beyond. Please join us in the fellowship room for coffee and treats immediately following the worship service. There will be no Bible Study or Sunday School on that day.

Winter Weather Maintenance

The ground will be white soon. The South St. Paul City Ordinance requires all sidewalks to be cleared of snow within 12 hours of the snowfall. If any of you are willing to help with clearing our sidewalks this winter, please see Keith Ogorek.

Winter News

With winter soon approaching, please review the church closing policy:

Worship Services/Events Cancellation and Church Closing Policy

Worship services and other events will proceed as scheduled unless notice is given. As always, if you feel you cannot safely proceed to worship services/events, please make the best decision for you and your family.

When worship services (or other church events) are cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be announced on:

- **WCCO website:** Go to WCCO.com/closings and look for "Concordia Lutheran Church"
- **Radio:** Listen for WCCO-AM (830) to announce "Concordia Lutheran Church"
- **Church website:** Visit www.concordia-ssp.org look for an announcement on the first page
- **Social Media:** Find information at <https://m.facebook.com/concordia.church.southstpaul> or <https://mobile.twitter.com/concordiassp>

On weekdays, the Church office will close during business hours due to inclement weather according to the same guidelines as the South St. Paul Schools. (If the schools close for the day, the office is closed for the day. If the schools are on a two-hour delay, the office is on a two-hour delay.)

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

Serving in God's House

Month: January 2020

Please add to your calendar; this is the only notification you will receive.

Thank you!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Helpers</u>	<u>Usher Team Captain</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan 5 9:00 am		Keith Ogorek	Tami Gooch	1Pt 4:12-19
Jan 12* 9:00 am	Bruce Avenson	Paul Helgerson	Paul Helgerson	1Co 1:26-31
Jan 19 9:00 am		Bruce Avenson	Bruce Avenson	Eph 5:22-33
Jan 26* 9:00 am	Paul Dale	Kim Huebscher	Bob Kilb	Rm 1:8-17

*Designates Communion Service

Altar Guild	Bruce & Gail Avenson
Greeters	John & Jan Wilke
Counters	Kris Westad & Sue Ogorek

January 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 Hannah's Quilters	8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	
5 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	6 Pastor's Day Off	7	8 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	9	10 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	11
12 9:00 am Worship/Comm. 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	13 Pastor's Day Off	14	15 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	16	17 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	18
19 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 12:30 pm Game Day	20 Pastor's Day Off	21	22 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner at Kaposia Club	23	24 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	25
26 9:00 am Worship/Comm. 10:00 am Reception for Beth	27 Pastor's Day Off	28	29 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	30	31 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

255 WEST DOUGLAS STREET
SOUTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55075

