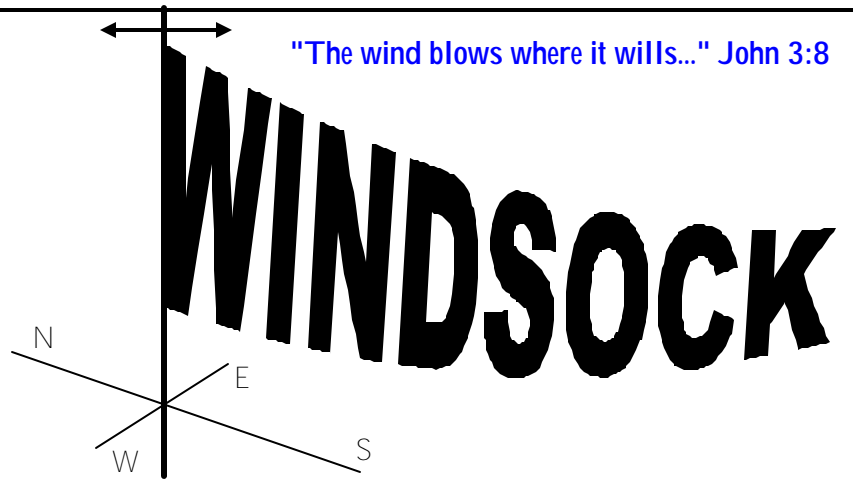


Concordia Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2007



3705 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4013
Office Phone (817) 283-3560
Office Fax: (817) 283-2877

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Mark Lasch
Email: shepherd@concordialutheran.org
Web Site: www.concordialutheran.org

2007

2007 is an important year for Concordia Lutheran Church. It represents our 39th year of ministry together, and is indeed cause for celebration. As I consider what this year might bring there are several hopes and dreams I hope we will accomplish together:

I hope we will have another year of continued growth. Yet growth does not happen without intentional effort. Did you know that on any given Sunday only 30% of all Americans find themselves in church? Yet of those who do not regularly attend worship studies show that 70% would respond favorably to accepting an invitation to attend worship with someone they know. Odds are good that you know someone who is un-churched, under-churched, or de-churched. Odds are good that they would accept an invitation to come and attend worship with you if only they were invited. I hope you will step out of your comfort zone and invite someone to become a part of the Concordia community this year.

I hope you will consider joining a small group this year. This year I see a number of different small groups starting including: a men's group, a women's group, a couples group, a parenting group, a grief group, and more. Small groups will revolve around several key principles including: the studying of God's Word, the unconditional acceptance of the individuals in the group, the mutual support of one another through prayer, and a specific missional service to Concordia. Small groups will also increase the sense of community that we share and ministry opportunities for our members. It is my hope that this year Concordia will become a "7 day a week" church. In other words, as you look at our monthly calendar something will be happening here every day of the week.

I hope this year will be a year of healthy stewardship as we manage the gifts that God has entrusted to each of us. I'll make you a deal, you can claim as your own everything you came into this world with. Everything else belongs to God and is entrusted to us to manage. If Concordia is truly going to realize her potential, each of us are going to have to dig deep into our hearts and understand what role our personal stewardship plays in the expansion of God's kingdom.

I hope this year will bring about an expanded understanding of the mission God has given to us. We have a purpose...a reason that God has called us together. We can discover that purpose by being in the Word of God and realizing that the more we learn about the people in the Bible, the more we learn about us. I hope you will pick up your Bible and engage in the Today's Light Challenge to read the Word with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we start Year 2. If you didn't start with us last January, that's okay, start now and join us. God stands behind his word and promises you it will accomplish His purposes in you.

I hope this will be a year when I get to know you better. I would like to come and visit you in your home. If I haven't been yet, I'd love to accept an invitation. If I have been, I'd love to come again. Let me know when we can get together.

God bless you all in the New Year!

Pastor Mark



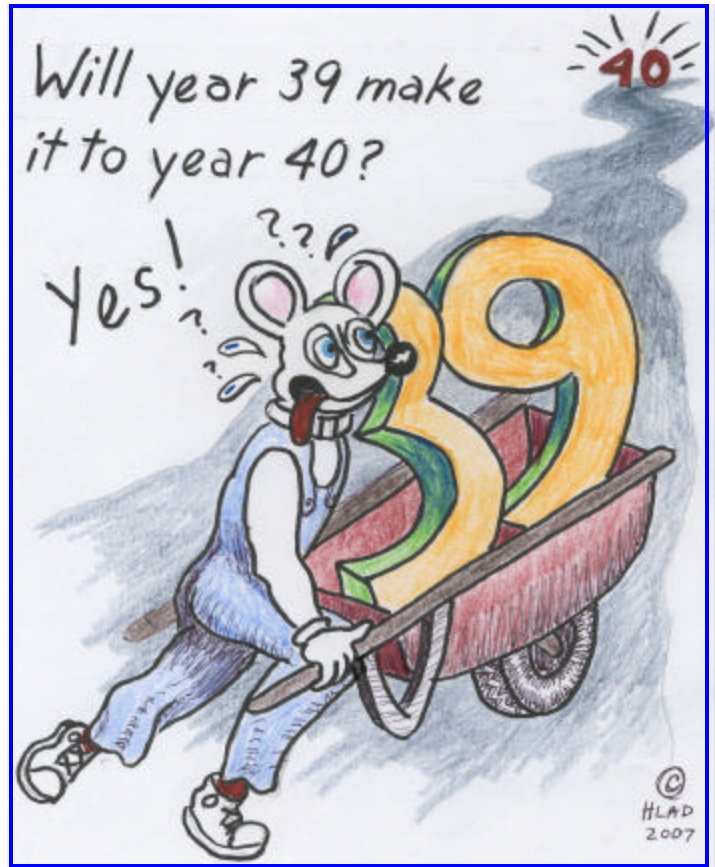
"It" Approaches

What is "It?" Where does "It" come from? Is "It" dangerous? When will "It" arrive?

"It" is the annual Lay Ministers' Chili Cookoff from parts unknown. Dangerous? Perhaps so; perhaps not. Many people have survived this annual event, including the Lay Ministers. January 28 following church is this year's date.

Most notorious of the Lay Ministers is Bruce Nelson. This "Man of Chili" is a multiple winner of the contest. He features a chili from the "Bean Free Zone", otherwise known as meat stew. Herb Jacoby is rumored to be at this moment scouting the woods and plains for game for his chili meat. Proud poppa Kelly Westphal will find time between baby feedings to provide his own brand of chili. Richard Hlad will provide his "I'm retired as you should be" concoction. Paul Moeller will produce the tallest chili. Robert Holley will produce the winning chili if he can get to the ballot box first and more often than anyone else. And the biggest unknown is the contribution of our newest Lay Minister, Mark Fondren. It is rumored that his "stuff" will be called "Forensic Fantasy."

So come on! Be brave! January 28 after church. Good eats! Good fun!



Richard "Dick" Diehl 1931 - 2006



Richard "Dick" Diehl, 75, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, from complications due to Alzheimer's disease.

Memorial service: Concordia Lutheran Church, Bedford, TX, 2:00 p.m. January 6, 2007.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association; or charity of choice.

Dick was born Feb. 5, 1931, in Rochester, N.Y. In 1977, he relocated with his family to Texas. He worked for Optical Firms and was a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Bedford. Dick had been an avid fisherman since he was a small boy and loved playing golf. For several years he was involved in the "Save-a-Child" Golf Classic, sponsored by Lutheran Social Services.

Survivors: Wife of 50 years, Barbara; son, Lon Diehl and wife, Joanie; daughters, Kim Hart and husband, David, Karen Tidwell and husband, Gary; sister, Bonnie and husband, Dr. Jack Collipp of Jesup, Ga.; brother-in-law, Hal Lee and wife, Alice of Newark, N.Y.; nine precious grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel Tree was an overwhelming success. Every ornament was taken and then replaced with gifts. The gifts were delivered to the families in time for Christmas. Concordia can be proud for the demonstrated generosity.

On December 18, 2006, Loren Johnson, Stella Hlad, Renee Bierschenk, and Lisa Fondren delivered Angel Tree food and gifts.



An Angel Tree recipient tearfully accepts the food and gifts.





Advent Special Music

Pastor Mark Lasch (with saxophone), Chelsea Bravo (with flute), and Tina Slayton (with flute) provide special music during the Advent season.

Worship Audio

Each Sunday worship service is recorded to an audio CD. Worship services beginning on August 6, 2006, are available on audio CD. Contact Bruce Nelson should you wish to receive an audio CD.

Community Outreach

Concordia's community outreach is a constant endeavor. Pastor Mark Lasch is an H.E.B. I.S.D. T.E.A.M.S. participant. Monthly Pastor Lasch addresses a group of Hurst L.D. Bell High School students.

On December 14, 2006, he and Santa (elder Bruce Nelson) presented the group with a treat... pizza, cookies, and cold drinks. During each visit, Pastor Lasch encourages the group with a brief message.



Renovation Complete

The Cry Room Renovation committee has completed its work. The renovated room is now officially the Young Family Worship Room. The final touch was the installation of wall corner shelves with small animals.



Walk in and take a look. They did a fine job. Committee members are Stella Hlad, Rebecca Knowles, Kathy Nelson, and Katy Roy-Rosar. Concordia says *Thank you!*

Meet Your Lay Minister

Kelly Westphal is the Lay Minister that we'd like to spotlight this month.

Kelly and his family have been members of Concordia for almost 15 years. He has been with IBM for over 16 years and currently works there as a financial analyst.



He enjoys watching his children playing in sporting and other activities and helps with his oldest son's Cub Scout group.

When serving as a Lay Minister, he most enjoy helping the Pastor serve Holy Communion.

Kelly's "flock" is listed below:

- Lou & Karen Bravo
- Heinz & Elain Faber
- Mark & Lisa Fondren
- Hilda Graham
- Sue Greenwood
- Richard & Stella Hlad
- Thomas & Mary Marek
- Mase & Dawn Masalosalo
- Mike & Lourdes McWithey
- Peg Trowbridge

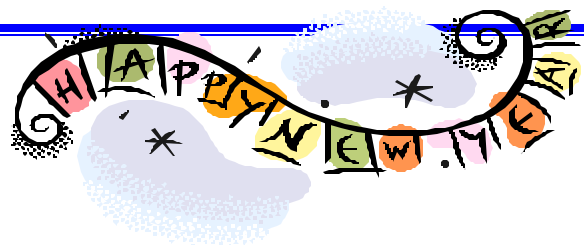
Bible Study & Lunch Bunch

Come study the Bible with us on Thursday, January 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. We will continue the series called, "That the World May Know".

After the Bible study, the group will have lunch at a local restaurant. We hope you will join us!

Lay Reader Schedule

- January 7—Robert Holley
- January 14—Stella Hlad
- January 21—Cynthia Reid
- January 28—Mike McWithey



Las Posadas

Dr. Lou, Karen, and Chelsea Bravo hosted Concordia's first ever Posadas in their neighborhood and at their house on December 16. What's a Posadas?



Las Posadas means *lodging*. The event commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem. In Mexican cities and villages processions of people carrying candles and singing hymns weave through the streets. Near the head of the group, perhaps even riding a burro, are people dressed as Mary [Caitlin Holley], Joseph [Bruce Nelson], and a guardian angel. The group is turned away from many houses but eventually at a prearranged location [the Bravo home] they are welcomed and a celebration begins.

Photos of this joyous event can be viewed on Concordia hallway walls. *Thanks!* goes to the participants and to the Bravo host family.



Children's Christmas Pageant

One of the best ever Children's Christmas Pageant was conducted on December 10, 2006. The children performed beautifully, the music was grand, and the atmosphere was fabulous. Photos of the event can be viewed on Concordia's hallway walls.



Concordia says "Thank You!" to director Ruth Donald and the Board of Christian Education.

Lasch Family Open House

On December 15, 2006, Pastor Mark and Catherine Lasch opened their Eules home to the Concordia congregation. Photos of the event may be seen on Concordia's hallway walls. Thank you Pastor and Mrs. Lasch for opening your home during the Advent



Sophia McWithey

On September 25, Sophia McWithey was born more than three months early. She weighed two pounds three ounces and measured 14 inches. Sophia has remained in hospitalized intensive premature care but has steadily improved her weight and health.



At press time Sophia is scheduled to be taken home by parents Mike and Lourdes McWithey on December 22, 2006. What a great Christmas present for Mike and Lourdes. God is great!

Mid-Week Advent Services

Isaiah the Prophet was the first Biblical character to visit Concordia during the mid-week (Wednesday night) Advent services. Here Isaiah lights the Hope candle.



Concordia's Ushers

Ushers for the month of January are **Hank & Shawn Henning**.



JANUARY 2007

Concordia Lutheran Church ~ 3705 Harwood Rd. ~ Bedford, TX 76021 ~ (817) 283-3560

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 p.m. Properties Board	3	4 7:30 p.m. Lay Ministry Board	5	6
7 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	8 7:00 p.m. Education Board	9 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Board	10 7:30 p.m. Evangelism Board	11	12	13
14 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	15	16	17	18 11:00 a.m. Bible Study and Lunch Bunch	19	20
21 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	22	23 Windsock Deadline	24	25 7:30 p.m. Church Council	26	27
28 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Chili Cookoff After Worship No Confirmation	29	31	31			

Editor: Rev. Mark Lasch
 Publication Manager: Lisa Holley
 Director of Distribution: Katy Roy
 Internet Webmaster: Bruce Nelson
 Cartoonist: Richard Hlad

Staff

The *Windsock* is a monthly publication of Concordia Lutheran Church, 3705 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4013 entered as third class mail at the Bedford, Texas post office under permit number 37 as a non-profit organization.

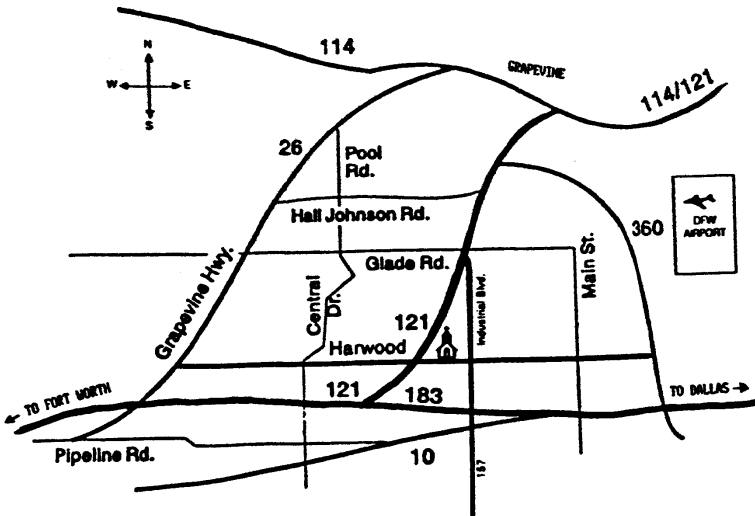


Concordia Lutheran Church
 3705 Harwood Road
 Bedford, Texas 76021-4013

Non-Profit Orgn.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit Number 37
 Bedford, TX 76021

Concordia Lutheran Church

3705 Harwood Road
 Bedford, Texas 76021-4013
 Phone: (817) 283-3560
 Fax: (817) 283-2877
 Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
 Worship - 10:30 a.m.



OUR MISSION AT CONCORDIA
 Living joyfully in friendship, love and ministry
 Openly reaching out with the Gospel
 Visibly sharing the life of Christ through Word & Sacrament
 Encouraging spiritual growth and development
WHERE GOD'S LOVE TOUCHES PEOPLE'S LIVES