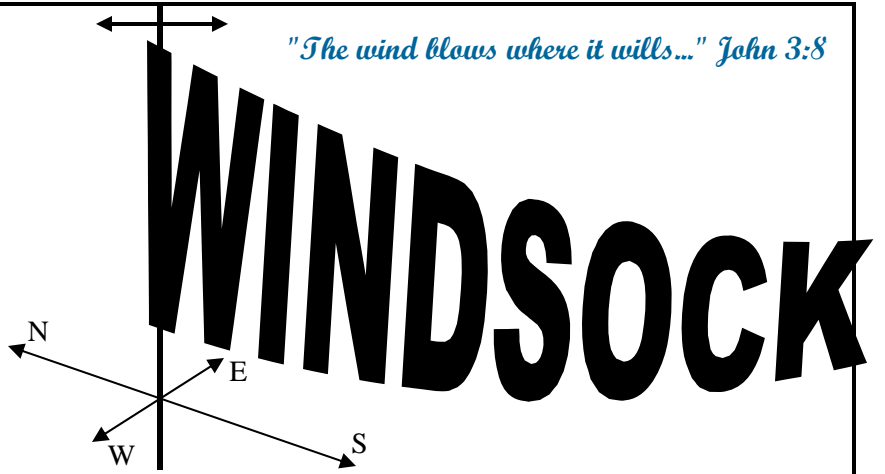


Concordia Lutheran Church

"The wind blows where it wills..." John 3:8



JANUARY 2008

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Lasch
Email: shepherd@concordialutheran.org

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Ten little fingers, ten little toes. First steps forward. The discovery of a new world. Its hard to believe that we stand at the brink of 2008, looking into the future with more questions than answers. What will this new year bring? Will it be more of the same or something completely different? 2008, time to dream a dream. Who are you going to be this year?

Why is it that we wait for a new year to make changes in our lives? Each of us with behaviors we know we're not happy with... "The good that I would," or so the Scriptures say. Seize the Day! "Which day?" I ask from the comfort of my Lazyboy. "Why should I change that which I know hasn't worked for me in the past?"

As humans we are resistant to change. We get comfortable with things the way they are no matter how bad they seem to be. We continually engage in behaviors that we know are not healthy for us, not healthy for our families, and not healthy for our world. Oftentimes we arrive at the new year with a new optimism... "This year will be different!" Yet by the time January 15th makes its way onto our calendar, things seem much the same...comfortable, yet equally unhealthy.

How is it that we are able to change our unhealthy behaviors? Recognizing them as unhealthy is a good start, but it's not enough. Perhaps we have to call them what they really are to get down to it. Unhealthy behavior is sin, and sin separates us from God. Cycles of sin can be hard to break. Simply confessing that our sin is sin is a good start, but it too is not enough. What we need is something more, something more powerful, something more meaningful...We need to repent!

To repent is not simply to say that we are sorry for something. To repent is to turn around and walk away from our sin, to change our unhealthy behavior and replace it with a healthy behavior. New Year's is a wonderful time to repent. Identifying one unhealthy behavior and repenting of it is an excellent New Year's resolution. Why not give it a try?

"What if I fail?" you might ask. "Don't!" I might answer. But if you do, remember every day is a new day for the Christian. Every day you wake up newly washed in the waters of your Baptism. "Today will be different!" Success at last! Thanks be to God.

Happy New Year...Carpe Deum. Amen

In Christ! Pastor Mark

LCEF REPORT

The Board of Parish Resources provides the following information from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for your consideration:

THE LCEF MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the LCEF is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

LCEF TODAY

LCEF is a ministry-through-investment organization that provides low-cost loans and services to LCMS churches, schools, and professional church workers. Loan dollars are made possible through the support of LCMS members who invest their money in LCEF and earn a competitive interest rate. Invested dollars at LCEF belong to the investors; the money is available whenever they need it. At the same time, these dollars are loaned to LCMS organizations at a competitive rate. This partnership between LCEF investors and borrowers furthers the Lord's work and promotes good stewardship of the blessing God gives each and every one of us each day.

KIDS INTO DISCIPLESHIP AND STEWARDSHIP (KIDS)

KIDS is an LCEF stamp program providing children a fun way to learn the stewardship of saving while educating them about LCEF's mission and ministry. The KIDS saving stamp program allows younger investors to participate in the LCEF ministry through the purchase of stamps that are eventually deposited into a child's very own LCEF account. Through the KIDS stamp program, young Lutherans learn how to save money and also help others share the Good News of Jesus.

To begin, each child receives a KIDS Savings Stamp Book. Children purchase stamps in denominations of 25 cents or one dollar. Once the book is completely filled it has a value of \$25 and is sent to LCEF and deposited into a child's very own LCEF account and immediately starts drawing interest.

The Board of Parish Resources will work with LCEF representative Lisa Fondren to conduct the KIDS program at Concordia. Beginning this month, the second Sunday of each month will be designated LCEF Sunday. So, to all KIDS, start saving your quarters and buy your stamps on LCEF Sunday in order to fill your book. For more information, you may go to www.lcms.org or speak to Lisa Fondren or Katy Rosar.



SOMETHING IS COMING!

Are you missing the excitement of modern life? Do you seldom find thrills to spice up your existence? Have your taste buds been stimulated lately to the point where they tingle? Me neither, but perhaps we can offer you a little variety and fun through the Lay Ministers' Annual Chili Cookoff!

Passions run high during the contest, scheduled for January 20th right after the worship service. If you have a weak heart, you might wish to skip the contest, but if you attend you will have the chance to sample the various offerings of the participants:

You will taste the "Frosty Iowa" chili of Paul Moeller, the "Beanless Bubba" chili of Bruce Nelson, and the "Anatomically Correct" chili of Mark Fondren. Also, try the "Never Win" chili of Richard Hlad, the "Wilderness Stew" of Herb Jacoby, the "Visitor's Favorite" of Rob Holley or Mike McWithey's "Jet Fuel" offering.

And after having sampled them all, you will have the chance to vote for your favorite.

So be brave. Bring your Alka-Seltzer, Pepto and Tums along with your appetite and your sense of adventure. Join us and enjoy on January 20th after church.

Richard Hlad



Joy to the World!

Many thanks are due to the members of the Concordia choir and their leaders, Sharon Brock and Ruth Donald, who worked so diligently to help make our Advent and Christmas services resound with beautiful music.

Thanks are also due to stained glass artist, Larry Gerlikovski, who donated a wonderful glass cross as the prize for a drawing held on Christmas Eve. Donations for the drawing earned over \$200 for choir music and supplies for the coming year. The cross was presented to Richard and Stella Hlad.

THANK YOU

Pastor Mark and Catherine Lasch wish to thank the members of the congregation who gave so generously to the Christmas gift of over \$1000 presented to them at the Christmas Eve service, and also to all those who extended Christmas remembrances in the form of cards, gifts, good wishes and prayers.

The congregation wishes to thank the Lasch's for their presence among us, which is a continuing blessing. We especially thank them for their sons who played baby Jesus (Ryan) and young Jesus (David) at our Christmas program during worship on December 16th.

January Ushers

Ushers for the month of January are Hank and Shawn Henning.

Lay Readers For January

January 6—Robert Holley
 January 13—Paul Moeller
 January 20—Richard Knowles
 January 27—Karen Bravo

Did You Know...

...that Brian Weaver, grandson of Dee and Mary Weaver, is graduating from Concordia Lutheran University in Austin on April 26? This will be the last graduating class from this campus, as Concordia is moving to another much more spacious property in Austin beginning with the Fall semester. A matter of special pride and excitement to Brian's family is the fact that he has been admitted to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri beginning his ministry preparation studies in the fall of 2008.

...that there are two more Concordia members who are children of pastors in addition to the six reported last month? They are Cheryl Wood and Sharon Anderson. Are there any more of you out there?

...that over forty people showed up at Concordia's Christmas social at the home of Hank and Shawn Henning? Chef Bob and Katy Rosar sent a delicious cheese and salami tray to add to the festivities. A whole bunch of clothes and school supplies were collected to be donated to the Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD's Clothes Closet.

...that the new flower calendar for 2008 has been posted? If you would like to donate the cost of flowers to honor some special occasion, just write your name on the appropriate Sunday on the calendar and see Bruce Nelson when the time comes to make your donation.

...that the Lillie Inez Nelson memorial fund purchased two shade trees for the children's playground at a cost of \$1000? Concordia's arborist Rusty Freeman, owner of Save A Tree Enterprises, selected and planted two large Bradford Pear trees which will bloom in the spring and provide much needed shade all summer.

...that in December Concordia's roof was removed all the way down to the decking and new roofing materials applied? Specifications were established by a Strategic Ministry Planning provided engineer and the work was completed in one week with no interruption to Sunday worship services. ACME Roof Systems won the bid, with all costs covered by insurance.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

January is the beginning of another new year, another beginning, another year to see where the Lord is taking us at Concordia. By the time you read this, the Church Council will have met in late December and updated action plans for our continuing path along the Strategic Ministry Plan. All of our boards are planning a full year of activities, many to provide fellowship for those of us already here, some to reach out to those not here yet.

Hopefully the weather will have held and we will have a new and easier gently sloping sidewalk to get from the parking lot to the Sanctuary, a small but important project.

We are starting to clarify the picture of the building we have and what it will take to modify it as we go forward. The Vision Team will be meeting early in January to ask the Lord to provide us with a clear vision of what our church should look like in order to meet our coming needs. Shortly after that, we'll ask some of you to serve the Lord and Concordia in the ministry of our Building Committee.

Our Parish Resources Board will be asked to provide the leadership necessary for a capital funding campaign to begin the task of raising money to renovate, rejuvenate and even grow our buildings.

The year of 2008 promises to bring much to Concordia; let's all join in and help each other fulfill God's desire for this humble farmhouse to become that Beacon of Hope for all of us here, and those yet to join.

Hank Henning

APOCALYPSE NOW

During the week of January 14th, the Today's Light study group will begin their four week study of the Book of Revelation. This will conclude the two year study of the entire Bible from Genesis onward. Each week assigned chapters are read and discussion is lead by Pastor Lasch on the following Sunday during Sunday School.

Even if you have not participated in the entire Today's Light journey, the study of this last Book would be a great place to start or restart. It promises to be a relevant and revealing four weeks, ending on February 10. A short term commitment for a long term benefit—what better offer for the New Year?

YOUTH NEWS

2008 promises to be a year of continued growth and excitement for Concordia youth. A much anticipated lock-in for all Middle and High School students will begin on the evening of January 18th ending with breakfast on the morning of the 19th. The cost will be \$10 per person to help pay the cost of going to play Broomball. Exact times for the lock-in will be provided on the required sign-up sheet. There will also be a sign-up sheet so that adults of the congregation can volunteer to serve as chaperones, supply food, or help with transportation.

In Sunday School we will continue to study the Old Testament. Also, letters have gone out about "home visits" starting in January. When you receive a letter, please respond as soon as possible.

Special thanks to all who were instrumental in putting together the Youth Christmas Service, youth and adults alike. Your hard work and dedication was a gift to the congregation and most importantly a gift to God's heart!

May His grace abound as we begin a new year together.

Erin Rustan

Your Mama Don't Live Here!

The Boards of Fellowship, Resources, and Properties have a special New Year's request of all members. We are on a campaign to keep our facilities clean and neat at all times. The appearance of our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and classrooms says a lot to our visitors (and to ourselves as members) about how we value the space God has provided us for his work, and we want to make the most of what is here.

So, whenever you are here for any reason, please clean up after yourself and others. Chairs replaced, dishes put away, trash not left in pews says a lot. Thanks for your help.

January Birthdays

January 6—Luther Dube
January 8—Frieda Greenough
January 9—Colleen Gravel
January 10—Shirley Brady
January 12—Kelly Westphal
January 21—Katy Rosar

JANUARY 2008

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 7 pm Board of Fellowship	3 7 pm Board of Lay Ministry	4	5
6 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship <i>Epiphany</i>	7 7 pm Board of Parish Resources	8	9 7 pm Board of Evangelism	10 7 pm Board of Youth	11	12
13 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship <i>LCEF Sunday</i>	14 7 pm Board of Education	15	16 <i>Windsock Deadline</i>	17	18 <i>Youth Lock-in</i>	19
20 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship <i>Chili Cook-off</i>	21	22	23	24 7 pm Church Council	25	26
27 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	28	29	30	31		

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

Staff

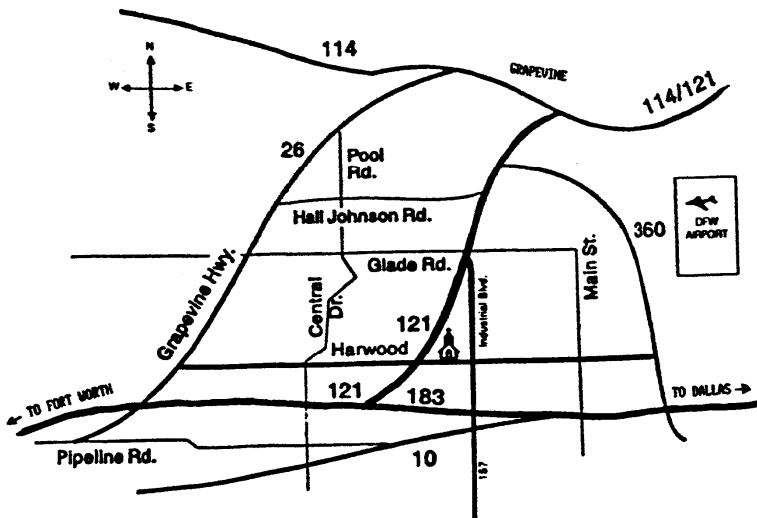
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 Phone: (817) 283-3560
 Fax: (817) 283-2877
 Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
 Worship - 10:30 a.m.



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 Bedford, TX 76021

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
SHARING GOD'S LOVE & TOUCHING PEOPLE'S LIVES