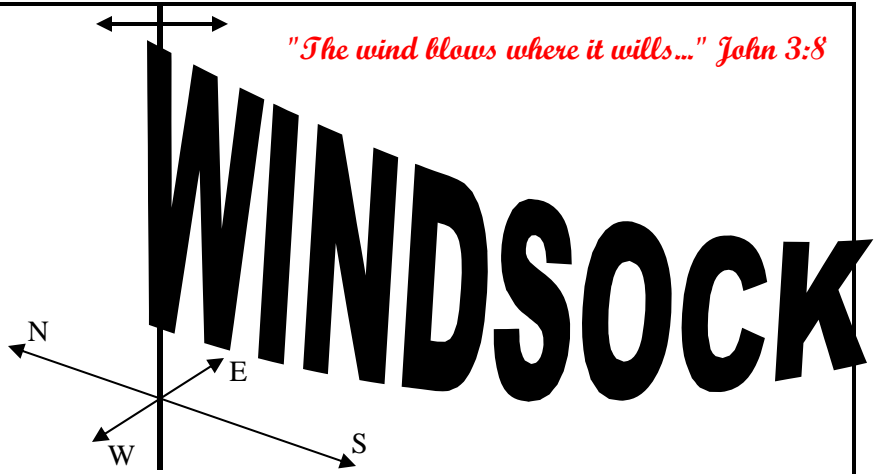


Concordia Lutheran Church

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



FEBRUARY 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

ARE YOU READY FOR LENT?

It's hard to believe February is already upon us. I just got the Christmas lights down from my house and now it's time to get ready for Lent! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6th this year, a time when we reflect upon the reality of our human condition. It's a time for us to accept the fact that, if left to our own devices, we would find a way to destroy ourselves. Yet we are not alone. God has given us a standing promise: He will never leave us, nor will He forsake us.

There's an old joke about a mad scientist who decided that science had become his god and he no longer had a need for the God of his youth. He called out to the Almighty with his assertions and God responded, "If you are so smart, why don't you create man?" The scientist accepted the challenge. DNA combined with RHA, HGH and CDC...no luck. "Gosh," the man said, "I'm not getting anywhere. Maybe I should just do what He did." So he went outside and gathered up some dirt. At once a voice came from Heaven, "GET YOUR OWN DIRT!"

On Ash Wednesday we will declare that, "Dust we are, and to dust we will return." But we are God's dust, and because we are, we are very much alive. Lent is a good time to ask ourselves who we are living for.

I invite you to join me in Lenten worship Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. We will be celebrating Holden Evening Prayer and will, throughout the season of Lent, be focusing on the theme, "10 Principles in Making Life Work."

On a side note, there are many wonderful things happening at Concordia. We are continuing to use the Strategic Ministry Planning process as our guiding principle for what God is asking us to do in this place, and are seeing many successes. In mid-February we will conclude a two year commitment to read the entire Bible guided by the Today's Light program. Adult Bible Study will then undertake an eight week series called "The Best is Yet to Come," a guide to practical Christianity. As you will read about in this newsletter, we had 23 youth plus several adult volunteers present at a January lock-in. We have had a wonderful response to the "New Hymnal Project" and should be ordering and receiving those hymnals directly. We had over 86 people cast votes at the 16th annual Lay Ministers' Chili Cook-off and Paul Moeller regained the title as Chief Chili Cooker. In addition we got some very encouraging news from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Architectural Advisory Committee Chairman, Craig Melde, that we are ready to hire an architect to move forward with our facility goals from SMP.

God is really blessing this congregation as we strive to be a people about, "Sharing God's Love and Touching People's Lives."

Keep it up!

In Christ! Pastor Mark



Renee Bierschenk Receives Servant of Christ Award

On Sunday, January 13, Pastor Lasch presented the Servant of Christ award to long-time Concordia member Renee Bierschenk. The award states that it is given "in appreciation for her faithful, dedicated and selfless support and service to Christ and His Church."

Renee has served at Concordia in many ways—as a hard working member of the Board of Evangelization, passing out cold Cokes during the 'Free Coke, No Joke' campaign, folding the weekly worship bulletin, and most notably riding the tractor mowing the back grounds. And she does all these things and more while working full-time as a security guard at DFW Airport. Renee is a faithful attendee at Bible study and worship, and also serves as usher for worship services.

Renee is truly a "noble example of humble Christ-like ministry in the Body of Christ."

Renee replies, "It is an honor to receive the Servant of Christ Award and a blessing to be part of the Concordia Lutheran family. Many thanks." Thanks to you, Renee!



Contemporary Worship Service Considered

A committee was recently formed by the Board of Lay Ministers to explore the addition to our ministry of a contemporary worship service at Concordia. This service would be held on Sunday evenings in the Fellowship Hall with aspirations to someday grow into the Sanctuary.

Many participants will be required to make this a success. Not only are people needed to be a part of a band and drama team, but also to attend the services and enthusiastically invite their friends and neighbors.

Please prayerfully consider your potential involvement in this endeavor. Anyone interested in participating in the committee or worship service are asked to contact Robert Holley by e-mail at rlcaholley@aol.com or to speak to one of the other committee members: Skip Richardson, Ruth Donald, Karen Bravo, Dawn & Mase Masalosalo, Joel McClure, and Bruce Nelson.

February Anniversaries

Arturo & Lucinda Garcia

Child Safety Training To Begin

Concordia will soon begin a four week training session entitled 'Reducing the Risk.' This training is required for all members of Church Council, all Board directors, and all members who will be working directly with children, either in Sunday School, Nursery, Parents' Night Out, Board of Youth, or other events. Any interested members are also welcome to attend. There will be a test administered at the conclusion of the training.

The classes will provide information necessary for caregivers and church members to insure a safe environment for our children and will also cover methods that can be used to prevent child predators from having access to our children. This training is very important and necessary to make sure we maintain a healthy and safe environment for the children God has placed into our care.

As part of the training process, we will conduct background screenings for each class participant. These screenings are confidential and private information will be protected.

Classes will be held on Monday mornings from 9 to 11 beginning on February 4, and on Sunday afternoons from 3 to 5. Please contact Lisa Fondren to register or for more information. You can reach her at 817-456-7369 or by e-mail at Lefondren@sbcglobal.net

Become Another Link in the Concordia Prayer Chain

The Board of Parish Resources has recently updated the operation of one of Concordia's most powerful resources—our prayer chain. Katy Rosar now receives requests for prayer by e-mail at shadow444@tx.rr.com or by phone at 817-545-6224. She then forwards the request to the entire prayer chain group by e-mail or to a smaller group by phone.

If you would like to receive these e-mails and add these special needs to your daily prayers, contact Katy. There are no phone calls for you to make, only a little more investment of time on your knees.

February Ushers

Ushers for the month of February are Nancy Brazell and Seretta Truitt.

Lay Readers For February

February 3—Carolyn Moeller

Ash Wednesday—Jeanice Gerlikovski

February 10—Judy Polito

February 17—Robert Holley

February 24—Sharon Brock

Did You Know...

...that Stavana Strutz, daughter of Ulana and Ken Ratley, graduated from the University of Texas in Austin on December 9? Stavana graduated with a double major: a BS in Biology and a BA in Philosophy and earned university honors all four years.

...that Chef Bob Rosar has been tutoring our own Pastor Lasch in the culinary arts? Ask Pastor about the photos of his first gourmet meal .

...that Evan Reid has been named to represent his school, Spring Garden Elementary, as a member of the Whiz Quiz team? These teams will participate in six competition events answering questions about random facts. The winning school will receive an award for being so smart!

...that Evan's grandfather, Pastor Grummer, is in the early stages of organizing a 2009 tour of the Holy Land? If you, or someone you know, may be interested, let him know and he will keep you informed as the plans progress.

...that Sue Greenwood is planning a ten day trip to Ecuador in July? Sue will be visiting her son and his family as they continue their missionary efforts in that country.

...that Katy Rosar has retired from her job preparing the weekly bulletin? Katy has been a tireless worker every week for the last five years and many thanks are due her for performing this task with patience, diligence, and dedication.

...that Beth Grover has taken over as the new publisher of the weekly bulletin? She will be doing this job at Concordia after her regular work day. Thanks are due to Beth for volunteering for this demanding job.

...that Kimbell Art Museum is currently hosting an exhibit titled, "Picturing the Bible, the Earliest Christian Art?" This show explores the origins of Christian art. Details at www.kimbellart.org.

...that the celebration of our 40th anniversary year is still bringing forth interesting information? For example, it has been reported that both Lawrence Reid and Hank Henning sported long hair, rode motorcycles, and were groovy, man.

Director's Corner

February will be an important month at Concordia. We have another Strategic Ministry Planning meeting at 7 pm on February 4th in the Fellowship Hall with Wes Ziebel. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting and see where we stand with our SMP process. Remember, we voted to spend \$12,000 on this effort to help us move from our history to our future. Please become involved; it's important that we have FULL participation of the Church Council, the many Boards of the Church, and each and every one of us as we try to fulfill the ministry of Concordia.

You've probably heard some of the many ideas floating around about improving or adding to the church building. At the Voters' Meeting scheduled for February 10th we'll explain many of the ideas on the list that will help us build our master plan for the Concordia campus. Again, it is important for all of us to be familiar with God's Plan for us, those of us with history here as well as those who have recently joined our Church. We all have to learn to work together, to insure that we have processes in place to sustain us, and the best way of doing that is to come to these meetings and talk about how you feel about the process of change we have begun.

This process isn't new here; it started when our Call Committee selected Pastor Mark to lead us. Let us not let the change falter now. Let's head into Concordia's future together.

Hank Henning

Fellowship Fiesta, Ole!

On Sunday, February 3rd, the Board of Evangelization will sponsor its annual Mexican Fiesta luncheon immediately after worship; honored guests will be those who have become new members of Concordia during 2007. The Board is also making an effort to invite as special guests those who are considering Concordia as a church home, as well as those who are here on our campus for other activities such as the Daisy Troop. Of course, all members and their guests are invited to share in the delicious Mexican lunch and to use this time to become more closely acquainted with our new members. Perhaps you know someone you have intended to invite to Concordia? Today's the day!

Youth News

The Concordia Lock-In on January 18-19 started with pizza followed by a caravan to Frisco to play broomball on the rink at The Ice at Stonebriar Center. Nine adults and twenty-three youths participated. And, as they say, a good time was had by all!

The 16th of February will be a busy day for the youth group, starting with a bowling party at Main Event from 2 to 4:30 pm. After bowling, the young members will return to church to join with the Board of Fellowship in putting on the Concordia Dinner Theater event at 6:30. Whatever this group does, fun is sure to be involved, so don't miss either opportunity.

Sign up with Director of Christian Education, Erin Rustan.



**Concordia's
World
Famous
Broomball
Team**

Hungry People and Thespians, Unite!

On Saturday, February 16, the Boards of Fellowship and Youth will co-host an evening of food, fun and drama. The Fellowship Hall will be reborn as a romantic Italian Renaissance courtyard where those in attendance will be served a feast to suit the Medici's—spaghetti with a selection of sauces, savory salad, bountiful bread, and decadent desserts.

Following the meal there will be a reading of Shakespeare's classic romantic tragedy, 'Romeo & Juliet' (abridged). Now this is where it really gets good. If you are so inclined, you will be given the opportunity to draw for a part in the reading. Those who draw a part will be provided with a rudimentary costume, (mainly so the audience can tell who's who) and a script from which to read your lines. If you have the least dramatic bone in your body, this is your chance at fame. And for those of you who don't, be assured that the drama will be highly entertaining one way or the other.

A sign up sheet will be provided so we can make sure we have enough food. Members and any guests you would like to invite are welcome. The youth group will provide table service and babysitting. There will be a free will offering to cover costs, with extra monies going to the New Hymnal fund.

Make plans now to attend. "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo?" At Concordia on the night of February 16th, of course!

Women's Conference

On March 8 & 9, Messiah Lutheran Church will sponsor the annual Lutheran Women's Conference in Dallas; this year's theme is 'Mustard Seed of Faith.' The conference will begin on Saturday the 8th with registration at 8 am, followed by a day of sessions, testimony, music, and dinner, concluding with vespers at 8 pm. Sunday morning will begin with breakfast at 8 am followed by a general session and closing worship at 10 am. Personal testimony at the conference will be given by Betty Grummer, wife of Concordia's former pastor, Reverend Roger Grummer. See Carolyn Moeller or any member of the Board of Fellowship for more on registration, and on sharing rides and rooms.

New Lutheran Service Book

Concordia's Board of Lay Ministry recently approved the purchase and use of the Synod's new hymnal, Lutheran Service Book. This book contains many hymns and worship services that you already know, along with new hymns.

We would like to give individual members the opportunity to help in this project by purchasing one or more copies of the hymnal, at \$18.50 each, in memory or in honor of someone or some event. In each hymnal that you purchase for the congregation we will place a nameplate naming the donor and the honoree. You may also purchase hymnals anonymously if you prefer. Copies may be purchased for individual or family use as well.

Donation forms will be available in the weekly worship bulletin. Checks and forms may be placed in the offering plate or given to any one of the Lay Ministers.

Thank you for helping us in this important project as our congregation takes this opportunity to sing to the Lord a new song!

A New Year, A New Calendar

Concordia's Master Calendar has recently gone online where you can check dates and events for the entire year of 2008 as they are scheduled. There are spaces for details such as time and places and information about each event as well as comments.

The easiest way to access this Google calendar for the first time is to send an e-mail to Hank Henning at hankhenning@tx.rr.com or to Shawn Henning at shawn.henning@tx.rr.com. They will have Google send you an invitation with registration instructions so you will be able to see everything going on at Concordia for the entire year.

Ain't technology great?

February Birthdays

Robert Farrell
Sydney Fondren
Lucinda Garcia
David Lasch
Frank Reaves
Cynthia Reid

Moeller Emerges Victorious

On Sunday, January 20, history was made when Paul Moeller was voted 2008 Chief Chili Cooker at Concordia Lutheran Church! This was the 16th Annual Lay Ministers' Chili Cook-off and perhaps the most hotly contested contest yet, with seven competing entries from the Lay Ministers and one Guest non-competing chili. Things really heated up as close to ninety members and guests tasted, tested and voted for their favorite concoction. Paul's recipe is as follows:

Moeller's Revenge

Ingredients:

3 lb Chili Grind Sirloin
1 medium onion, minced
1 small can green chilies, diced
3 cloves of garlic, minced
12 oz chicken broth
1-1/2 teaspoon Tabasco
8 oz tomato sauce

Spice Mix—Blend Together:

1 tablespoon habanera chili powder
1 tablespoon jalapeno chili powder
2 tablespoons New Mexico chili powder
2 tablespoons ground red chillies
3 tablespoons cumin
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon sugar
2 teaspoons msg
1 teaspoon Mexican oregano

Instructions:

Brown the meat in small batches and add to

pot with remaining ingredients and half the spice mix. Simmer 2 hours. Add the remaining spice mix and continue simmering for 1 hour, adding liquid if necessary. Adjust seasonings to taste during the last 15 minutes. (The chili powders and fresh seasonings are available in the bulk foods area at Central Market.)

Lay Ministers with Their Chili Offerings



Earn \$ for Concordia While Surfing the Net

Concordia has registered with Yahoo's search engine, *Goodsearch*, to enable people to earn money for our church while they do searches and buy products from participating businesses. Concordia will receive one cent for each search and varying percentages when you make retail purchases.

In order to receive these donations, you must make legitimate searches (no limit on the number of searches per day) and for the percentage from retailers, you must click on the retailer's link from the *goodsearch* homepage. You can add the search bar to your desktop which makes it easy to do your searches and also to check on how much money Concordia has earned. When you set up the toolbar for your preferences, you will need to tell *goodsearch* that you want to earn money for Concordia Bedford. This is easily done from the homepage, where it asks, "Who do you *goodsearch* for?" Type in 'Concordia Lutheran,' and then you can select our church from the drop down list.

This is an excellent opportunity for Concordia, but it will only work if we all spread the word and use the system all the time. Please go to www.goodsearch.com and install the toolbar, then begin your searching and watch the donations add up!

Call Lisa Fondren if you have any questions or need technical help. 817-456-7369.

FEBRUARY 2008

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> |
| 3 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12 pm <i>Mexican Fiesta</i> | 4 9 am <i>Child Safety Training</i> 7 pm <i>Strategic Ministry Planning</i> | 5 7 pm Board of Properties 7:15 Choir Practice | 6 7 pm <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i> | 7 7 pm Board of Lay Ministry | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <i>Voters Meeting</i> 3 pm <i>Child Safety</i> | 11 9 am <i>Child Safety Training</i> 7 pm Board of Christian Education | 12 7:15 Choir Practice | 13 7 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> | 14 7 pm Board of Youth <i>St. Valentine's Day</i> | 15 | 16 2 pm <i>Youth Bowling</i> 6:30 pm <i>Concordia Dinner Theater</i> |
| 17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3 pm <i>Child Safety Training</i> | 18 9 am <i>Child Safety Training</i> | 19 7:15 Choir Practice | 20 7 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>Windsock Deadline</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3 pm <i>Child Safety Training</i> | 25 9 am <i>Child Safety Training</i> | 26 7:15 Choir Practice | 27 7 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> | 28 7 pm Church Council | 29 <i>Leap Year Extra Day!</i> | |

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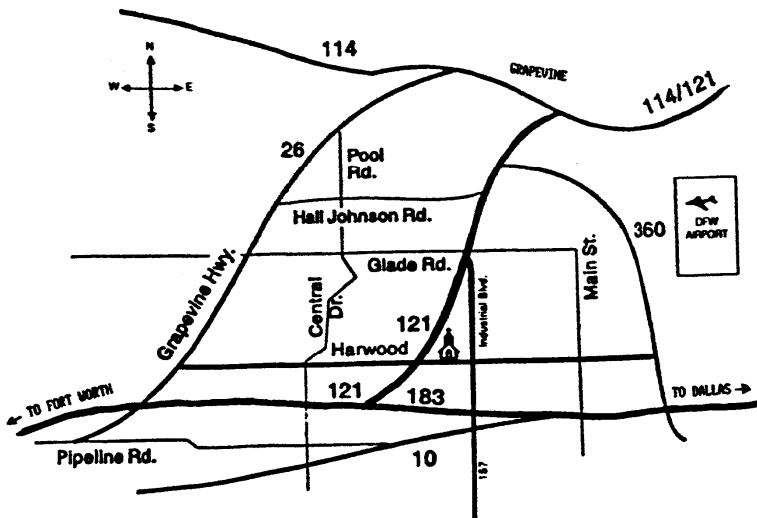
The *Windssock* is a monthly publication of Concordia Lutheran Church, 3705 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4013 entered as third class mail at the Bedford, Texas post office under permit number 37 as a non-profit organization.



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 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

SHARING GOD'S LOVE & TOUCHING PEOPLE'S LIVES

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