

Concordia Lutheran Church

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



MARCH 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

IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK

Ah, yes, March. The birds sing a little louder, the breeze blows a little warmer, the flowers begin to bloom, the trees seem to come back to life. Farewell to the grey skies of winter. Hello to the fresh sense of spring. Yet I shall miss the winter. I will miss the long evenings spent before my fireplace with the glowing embers of my spirit being warmed...but not that much!

One thing I learned from my fireplace this year...the amount of heat produced by the fire is not necessarily equal to the flame. I spent more time than I probably should have poking the fire, manipulating the logs, blowing air into its base hoping to keep the fire alive until at last all the glowing embers were reduced to ash. When I woke up in the morning, I considered it a success if all that was left from the previous night's venture was that fine grey dust of ash...dust you are and to dust you shall return, as the case may be. What I noticed was a little odd. Occasionally one of the inflamed logs would split and break off because of its circumstance, sometimes falling behind the fireplace grate to a place I couldn't reach. Inevitably it remained there in the morning, no longer a glowing ember, but instead a cold charred memory of what it used to be.

Easter is before us this month—the highest feast of the church year, the Festival of the Resurrection, and my greatest joy! But before we arrive at the mountain top we've got to go through the valley. Palm Sunday kicks off Holy Week on March 16. Maundy Thursday follows March 20 (service at 7 pm). The darkness of Mount Calvary comes when we celebrate Tenebrae on Good Friday, March 21 (service at 7:30). Easter Sunrise Service is at 7 am March 23 and then at 10:30 am the people of God will gather in mass to declare, "He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"

There is great joy in heaven and on earth as the church swells on Easter Morning with people on fire for the truth of the resurrection. Yet all too often the First Sunday after Easter signals the return to normal.

Let me encourage you not to be one of those logs that falls out of the flame only to grow cold and lifeless, falling short of the warmth God desires to give you through His grace. Let the love of Christ burn within you in such a way that His Light gives light to all those who know you. Remain in Him as He remains in you. Let your faithfulness be evident to all, especially to your brothers and sisters in Christ who long to see you on Easter and Christmas and every other Sunday in the church year. Be a part of this congregation as the Spirit's fire leads us forth in joy. You are loved. You are very much needed and wanted as an everyday part of the life of this congregation and this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are His greatest desire. May He, by the power of the Holy Spirit, be the spark which fans into flame His love in your life. Amen!

In Christ! Pastor Mark

Director's Corner

The Voters' Meeting in February gave us all a moment to look at where we are at Concordia, and a brief plan for where we could be heading. The SMP process is close to finishing the major work we expected to accomplish and it has done the job well.

We began the road to change at Concordia in December of 2004 when Pastor Grummer left us. Pastor Stan came forward as our interim Pastor while our Call Committee began its work to find a new Pastor to lead us forward to our goals and missions. They did an excellent job of making sure the decisions they were making were truly God-inspired and not the work of man. Finally a call was voted on by the congregation and Pastor Mark Lasch was installed as our new leader in December of 2005.

Pastor Mark came to Concordia filled with the promise of change, change that would better equip us all to serve God in the work He had commissioned. That work is moving forward now and it makes some of us fearful that it is happening too quickly. But it isn't; it is happening at the speed of God. The Church Council and Pastor Mark are truly aware that we need to listen to the Word of our Lord, question the rightness of our decisions, and move forward as God leads us.

Many new things are taking place at Concordia, yet we still honor the past and the road taken over forty years for us to arrive here, each and every day. We see a plan to modernize our building taking form. We see the beginnings of a Contemporary Service coming to fruition. We see a Youth Ministry in action in ways that we haven't seen before. And we visualize the beginnings of a true Family Ministry that will not only encompass all of us here at Concordia, but will include those who haven't gotten here yet. It is an exciting time at Concordia. Join in with us and watch our Mission grow!

Hank Henning

March Anniversaries

Tom & Sue Johnson
Kenneth & Ulana Ratley

*"Now, this, at last—bone from my bones,
flesh from my flesh!"*



Table for Eight?

A new opportunity for fun and fellowship with adult Concordians and guests is being initiated this month on Friday, March 28. Beth Grover will be coordinating monthly "Out and About" groups which will meet at area restaurants for delicious meals and stimulating conversation—fun and fellowship with good food included! Groups will consist of eight or less to encourage comfortable interaction and will be different each month. Come monthly or come when you can.

Beth will coordinate restaurant selections and reservations each month and, as always, she is open to suggestions. Email Beth by Wednesday, March 26 to save your spot; the address is secretary@concordialutheran.org. You can also make reservations in person by asking Beth to put you on the list.

This promises to be a perfect chance to get to know some of the other 'folks in the pews' in a relaxed, casual setting—and for other folks to get to know you. Make your reservations today.

By the way, this first event coincides perfectly with the Parents' Night Out to be held at Concordia on Friday, March 28. Babysitting and dinner—what a deal!



New Members Welcomed to Concordia

During the month of February, Concordia was blessed with the addition of four new members. Nancy Byrd and Charles DeGross (top row, left to right) were confirmed in the Lutheran faith, while Brian and Erin Rustan (bottom row) transferred membership to Concordia.

Welcome, new members!

Coming Attractions

March 8 & 9—Several ladies of Concordia will carpool to Dallas to attend the 2008 Women in Union with Christ Conference. The conference will run from 8 to 8 Saturday and 8 to 11 Sunday. If you are interested, see Carolyn Moeller.

March 28—Parents' Night Out, sponsored by the Board of Evangelism, will offer free babysitting available to members and friends. 7 to 10 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

March 30—The Contemporary Worship Service committee will lead worship at 10:30 am with contemporary music as part of the liturgy. This is the fifth Sunday service usually conducted by the youth of the congregation.

March Ushers

Ushers for the month of March are Frank Reaves and Dee Weaver

Lay Readers For March

March 2—Tamara Luckenbill
March 9—Ruth Donald
Palm Sunday—Mike McWithey
Maundy Thursday—Krista Polito
Good Friday—Kathy Nelson
Easter Sunday—Ulana Ratley
March 30—Jim Dickinson

Did You Know...

...that Travis Attanasio has been named Young Engineer of the Year by the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers? Travis has also been named the Fort Worth Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2008 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer of the Year. There has been a write-up about Travis in the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, and an awards banquet was held at the Petroleum Club on February 23.

...that Jeanice and Larry Gerlikovsky left in February for their annual sojourn in their original home territory of Wisconsin? Larry is an avid ice fisherman; ask Jeanice about this year's catch.

...that Secretary Beth Grover is collecting email addresses from church members? Send her yours so that you can be included in the emails regarding happenings at Concordia. Her email address is secretary@concordialutheran.org.

...that our SMP coordinator, Wes Ziebell, made his last visit to Concordia in February? Wes left us with a BHAG (big, hairy, audacious goal), a new mission statement, and strategies with which to move forward, and assured us that we are now equipped and ready to do so.

...that Cheryl Wood, daughter of Pastor and Betty Grummer has M.S. and must have someone to sit with her around the clock? To give her caretaker a break, Concordia members can volunteer to sit with Cheryl on Thursday afternoons. No special training is needed—just a loving heart. If you could serve in this way, see Katy Roy-Rosar or email her at shadow444@tx.rr.com.

...that Bruce Nelson updates the Pictorial Directory monthly? See him to get your photo added or refreshed.

...that the Board of Evangelism will sponsor an April garage sale? Start collecting items to sell.

...that Bedford's Café Sicilia prepared the delicious lasagna served at the Dinner Theater?

New Hymnals to be Dedicated

On Sunday, March 2, Concordia will dedicate its 150 new copies of the Lutheran Service Book. This book has been prepared by the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for use in public and private worship and praise.

Features of this edition include three year lectionaries specifying the readings for each Sunday of the church year, a section on singing the Psalms along with printed copies of all the Psalms, suggestions for worship services, and 635 hymns organized by occasion from Advent through Baptism and the Lord's Supper all the way to National Songs.

Of special note is a section titled "Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings." In this section the user will find prayers for Times of Need, for the Church and Her Mission, and for use At Worship, among others. In the section At Worship are found prayers for right reception of the Lord's Supper and for thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament.

Thanks to the generosity of her members, Concordia is blessed to be given the use of this new hymnal. It will hopefully enable all of us to be enriched as we worship and praise our God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

"Sing to Him a new song."

Psalm 33

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday—March 16, Worship at 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday—March 20, Worship at 7 pm

Good Friday—March 21, Tennebrae at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday—March 23

Sunrise Service at 7 am

Worship Service at 10:30 am

"He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

March Birthdays

Mark Fondren

Stella Hlad

Kalekaumaka Masalosalo

Seretta Truitt

Youth News

March will again be a busy month for Concordia youth. Junior High students will be attending a retreat lock-in at Crown of Life Lutheran Church on March 14 and 15. The lock-in is an annual event and is called "Raw Fuel." It is billed to be a mountaintop experience for the young people in attendance.

In addition, the Concordia Youth Leadership Team will continue meeting each Wednesday in March from 6 to 7 pm. These sessions prepare 6th to 12th grade students for leadership in church settings and in their home and school environments. See Erin Rustan for details.

On February 16, the Board of Youth and the Board of Fellowship collaborated on a dinner theater event which earned over two hundred dollars in free will offerings for youth projects. Youth members handled babysitting as well as all the food service, both as waiters and as clean-up crew. Thanks to Olive Garden for their donation of salad and bread for the event.

Concordia members served as actors for the abridged production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," and the play was received as a great comedy even though that was surely not the intention of the author!



Adam Holley waits on Shirley Brady and Sue Greenwood

Friar Laurence (Pastor Mark) marries Juliet? (Skip Richardson) and Romeo (Robin Smith)



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship <i>New Hymnal Dedication</i>	3 7 pm Board of Parish Resources	4 7 pm Board of Properties	5 7 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> 7:30 pm Confirmation Class, Board of Fellowship	6 7 pm Board of Lay Ministry	7	1 8
11 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship <i>LCEF Sunday</i>	10 7 pm Board of Christian Education	11	12 7 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> 7:30 pm Confirmation Class, Board of Evangelism	13 7 pm Board of Youth	14	15
16 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	17	18	19 <i>Windsock Deadline</i>	20 7 pm <i>Maundy Thursday Service</i>	21 7:30 pm <i>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</i>	22
23 7 am <i>Easter Sunrise Service</i> 10:30 am Worship Service	24	25	26 7 pm Confirmation Class	27 7 pm Church Council	28 7 pm <i>Parents' Night Out</i> <i>Out and About</i>	29
30 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship <i>Youth-Led Service</i>	31					

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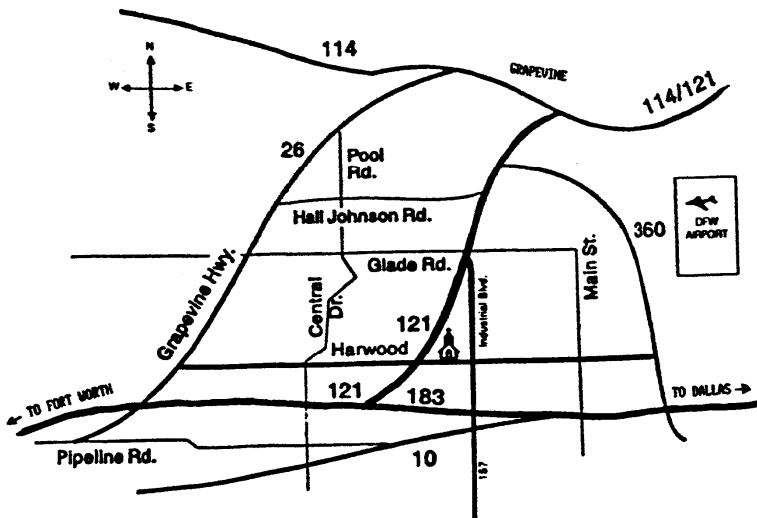
The *Windssock* is a monthly publication of Concordia Lutheran Church, 3705 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4013 entered as third class mail at the Bedford, Texas post office under permit number 37 as a non-profit organization.



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 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