

Concordia Lutheran Church

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



MAY 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

A Brave New World

It's a strange paradox that today I write these words to you from the city that prepared me for you. St. Louis, home of the Cardinals, the King of Beers, and Concordia Seminary is serving as the host of the 2008 conference for the Pastoral Leadership Institute. The topic for the 2006 class, of which I am a member, is "Ministry Teaming."

My thoughts just prior to my departure for St. Louis give indication about the "team" we have at Concordia. I didn't want to leave...I didn't want to miss any opportunity to experience the blessing you are to me, and the surprise of faith which God continues to reveal in and through us. The Holy Spirit is at work in our midst. He continues to call us with a compelling vision, gather us around His Word, and equip us with everything we need to glorify the name of our God and expand His kingdom.

He demonstrated that in voter's assembly on April 13th with the unanimous vote to extend Mrs. Erin Rustan a divine call to serve as our very first Director of Family Ministry. With Erin on board in a full time permanent position we have truly invested in implementing our goal to be a congregation that connects people to Jesus through children, their parents, and their friends. We are a twenty first century mission outpost for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Bedford, Texas.

What an amazing thing that God has chosen us at this time and at this place to bring His kingdom into the world of those who do not yet know him. In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue. Commissioned by the Queen of Spain to find a direct route to India for the purchase and trade of spices, he and his crew set off clueless as to the adventure that was before them. There were joys and sorrows along the trip...rough seas and beautiful sunsets amid calm waters. At one point Columbus' First Officer records in his log, "Today we have sailed off the map!"

My brothers and sisters in Christ, "Today we have sailed off the map!" We have an idea of where we are going, we have goals we would like to accomplish for the kingdom, but in reality only God knows where we are going.

Yet we know that our ship is seaworthy because long ago she was built by our God. We know she has a capable crew because this crew (of which you are a part) has been hand picked by the work and will of the Holy Spirit, and we know we're on course, for the Captain is at the helm. Jesus is our Captain. He has promised He will never leave us, nor will He forsake us...and should the rough seas come for our strengthening, He will be with us to say to the wind and the waves, "Peace, be still," just in the nick of time!

It's a brave new world! Joy in the journey...

In Christ! Pastor Mark

Director's Corner

Many things are happening at Concordia, but this isn't something that has just suddenly happened. This isn't a case of "too much, too fast," or "well, it's about time," at all. This church has been growing for over forty years now. Many things have been brought to us by the Holy Spirit, all for good reason. I find it interesting that the number 40 is suddenly so significant here at Concordia.

The number 40 holds particular significance in the Bible and refers to a precise number, not just a long period of time. There are at least ten instances in the Old and New Testaments where 40 occurs, either in years or days. For example, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, Moses was on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days and was seen on earth for 40 days after his resurrection.

A 40-something time period, whether days, months, or years is ALWAYS a period of testing, trial, probation, or chastisement (but not judgment) and ends with a period of restoration, revival, or renewal.

So, can we see what is happening here at Concordia in the light it is meant to be seen? We are in our period of restoration, revival, and renewal. We have added a staff member to our church who will truly assist in the revival of our concerns for spiritual growth. Erin Rustan will grow as she helps all of our congregants grow or replenish in the Holy Spirit. Our church will begin a process of renewal as the narthex becomes an area for fellowship along with our fellowship hall. Our contemporary service will help us look outward to help the unchurched in our community find their way to the light of our Lord and Savior.

Too much? Not enough? It is neither; it is that the Lord has tested Concordia and found us ready to pour out his grace and love into our world. I hope that each of us sees our "goings on" for what they are—God's plan for Concordia in full action.

I pray that each of you will realize that we all need to be together in this effort, by serving on committees, by offering our time and talents, or by making first fruit offerings to continue the bold path along which the Lord is leading us.

Hank Henning

Congregational Voter's Meeting Breaks New Ground

After worship on Sunday, April 13th, a voter's assembly was held at which all fifty-two members in attendance voted unanimously to extend a call to Mrs. Erin Rustan to serve full time as Director of Family Ministries. The vote came after a background presentation which included a slide show created by Adam Holley and a short discussion of job description and salary. Erin has been serving since last June in a part time capacity as Youth Director. She will be the first full time staff member (in addition to the pastor) to be hired at Concordia. Erin will begin her new duties on May 1st, and will be installed during worship service on May 18.

In a second vote, the congregation unanimously approved plans for expansion of the narthex. Funds for the renovation will come from existing Specified Fund monies and will be completed as soon as possible.

Both of these groundbreaking votes were precipitated by Concordia's dedication to slowly but surely working toward accomplishing our goal established during the Strategic Ministry Planning undertaken in the spring of 2007: *"We will create facilities, programs, and staffing to support an expanded ministry to grow our congregation with a focus on family ministry."*



Erin Rustan receives her call.

May Anniversaries

Travis & Alison Attanasio

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



Feeling Sporty?

If so, this is your chance to enjoy some fellowship and physical activity with fellow Concordians as a member of the as-yet-unnamed Concordia **Softball Team**. The team will play an eight game season in the City of Bedford Friday Night Crazy Co-ed League, beginning the second week of June.

Players of both sexes and all ability levels are welcome; the only restriction is that players must be at least eighteen years of age. The team is now forming and planning practice dates, jersey colors, mascot - all that fun stuff.

The team is being coordinated by Steven and Rebecca Wilkins, who can be contacted at steven_and_rebecca@sbcglobal.net. Watch future issues of Windsock for details about game schedules and times, so you can come be a cheerleader for Concordia. Remember, one of our SMP tactics is to "Establish an effective identity in the community." Go, Team!

May Ushers

Ushers for the month of May are
Nancy Brazell & Seretta Truitt

Lay Readers For May

May 4—Richard Knowles

May 11—Karen Bravo

May 18—Carolyn Moeller

May 25—Jeanice Gerlikovski

Did You Know

...that Concordia's own Chef Bob Rosar was recently invited to be a Guest Lecturer and spoke to the culinary students at the University of Houston? In addition, he was chosen to speak to the graduating class of his Alma Mater, the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.

...that Sydney Fondren recently enrolled for her first classes in Karate? Also in her class were Noelani Hoffmann, Hainalu Garcia, and Isabella Hoffmann. Look out, Concordia!

...that Bruce Nelson reports that Concordia's new web site is under construction and can be viewed at www.concordialutheran.org/index.htm? Any assistance in completing and maintaining this new site is solicited and appreciated.

...that Kourtney Garcia, a 6th grader at Heritage Middle School, has been on the *All A Honor Roll* all year?

...that Dee Weaver can be found each week-day morning and afternoon at the intersection of Jackson and Glade where he volunteers as a school crossing guard?

...that Pastor Mark's Pastoral Leadership Institute team has been assigned to a twelve day mission trip to Poland in 2010?

...that the Bible Study Lunch Bunch continues to meet at 11 am on the first Thursday of each month to study the Word, followed by lunch at a local eatery?

...that Pastor Mark has started a new Bible Study group that meets each Tuesday at 1 pm to read and discuss the readings for the coming Sunday liturgy? It's called the Solid Food Study and is open to any interested persons.

...that Northeast Emergency Distribution (NEED) is still asking for donations of food staples? Bring what you can and leave items in the baskets in the narthex. Herb & Ima Ruth Jacoby will see that they get to NEED's distribution center.

...that Out & About is a big success and lots of fun? Come join us on Friday the 31st for a casual dining experience. See Beth Grover for details.

Youth News

On May 11th, Pentecost Sunday, Concordia will celebrate **Confirmation** during the 10:30 worship service. Confirmands have been studying for two years in preparation for their reception into the full adult membership of the church.

An **Ice Cream Party** is planned on Friday, May 16th from 5 to 9 pm. There will be games, food, fun, and, of course, ice cream. This event is for members and friends in grades 6 through 12. Don't forget to sign up with Erin Rustan so we know how much food to buy.

May 18th is the registration deadline for **Glorybound 2008**. Register with Erin for this very special event. Glorybound is the LCMS Texas District Youth Gathering for youth in grades 9 through 12. This gathering is held every four years following the National Youth Gathering and is being held this year in Fort Worth at the Convention Center on November 28 through 30. Attendees will stay at a hotel close to the center. This year's theme is "Pulse" and the theme verse comes from Ezekiel 36:26: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Each participant is asked to pay the non-refundable registration fee of \$35 out of the \$109 total; there are scholarships available if money is a problem. The remainder of registration fees will be paid through fundraising efforts. That means that if you sign up, you will be expected to participate in fundraising activities; friends who are attending must also be involved in fundraising. Money that is raised will be applied toward registration, transportation, and housing for the convention.

You are needed for **Vacation Bible School!** We are looking for volunteers to be involved in planning, preparing, and carrying out this important ministry to the children and youth of our church and the surrounding community. This year's VBS will be held July 28 through August 1 from 9 am to 12 pm each day. The theme is "God's Big Backyard: It's All About Service." We need site leaders, youth crew leaders, site leader aids, people to help decorate, promote, and perform many other tasks. You do not have to be available during the hours of VBS to help make an impact in this ministry. Please sign up with Erin if you can and are willing to help in any way.



Erin & "her kids" play a game.

Take Us Out to the Ballgame!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring **Lutheran Night** at Rangers Ballpark this year on Saturday, May 31. This will be a game against the Oakland A's and tickets are \$11 each, not including parking. (We plan to arrange carpooling.) The Tarrant Lutheran Chorale will sing the Star Spangled Banner and there will be fireworks after the game. Funds raised will be combined with a grant from Thrivent to sponsor the construction of two local Habitat for Humanity houses. Because the earlier we order tickets the better the seats will be, the deadline for reservations will be May 12. See Hank Henning with your money, since tickets must be paid for upon ordering. There is no limit or minimum for tickets.

May Birthdays

May 2—Lisa Fondren

May 8—Gladys Hennig

May 11—Melissa Western

May 13—Skip Richardson

May 14—Tammy Westphal

May 15—Susan Salmi

May 17—Renee Bierschenk

May 31—Kaitlin Holley

"Before you were born I set you apart."

Jeremiah 1:5

Sunday 601

*I will praise you,
O Lord, with all
my heart; I will
tell of all your
wonders. Psalm 9:1*

Contemporary Worship
1st & 3rd Sundays
6:01 p.m.

On April 6, the first **Sunday 601** was celebrated at Concordia with much rejoicing. This service was blessed by the talented music leadership of Concordia's own praise band and the enthusiastic participation of those in attendance. These services will continue on the first and third Sundays of each month at 6:01 pm in the sanctuary and are followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall. If you know someone who God might touch through this form of service, please invite and bring them. Who knows? You might be touched yourself!



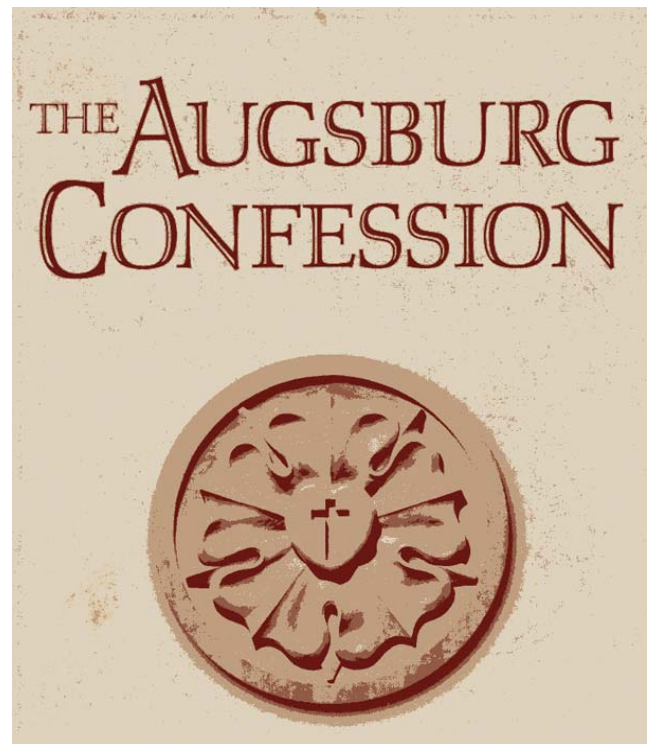
Drama Team Formed

In conjunction with the Sunday 601 Contemporary Service praise and worship team, a drama team, called **The Grapevine**, has been formed and is meeting every Thursday at 7pm. This group will perform skits once a month at the 601 service, and is looking for actors and actresses of all ages. Perhaps you have noticed the cryptic notices in the weekly bulletin? That's the drama team being dramatic. See Lea Young for more details or to volunteer your talents.

Certificates Awarded

Certificates of completion were recently awarded to eleven members and staff who successfully finished the first **Child Safety Training** sponsored by Concordia. This training is a four session course that met weekly at the church and was given for church members who will be working with children and youth or transporting them to and from activities. All participants are required to pass a background check and demonstrate proficiency on a final written exam.

Congratulations to the following people who have successfully completed this training: Lisa Fondren, Richard Hlad, Lisa Holley, Pastor Mark Lasch, Gatty Manala, Bruce Nelson, Cynthia Reid, Director of Family Ministries Erin Rustan, Reeta Thompson, Rebecca Wilkins, and Steve Wilkins.



New Adult Bible Study Series

On June 25, 1530, Martin Luther and his supporters presented the Augsburg Confessions, declaring the Chief Articles of Faith of what we now know as the Lutheran Church. In mid-May, the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study class will undertake a new series of discussions and explanations of these articles. All members and their guests are invited to come, participate, and review the tenets of our faith.



Storm Hits Concordia

In the early morning hours of April 10, a mighty wind blew through the grounds at Concordia, wreaking havoc wherever it landed. Two trees on the west side of the fellowship hall were completely snapped off their trunks, and one of the new Bradford Pears shading the playground was totally uprooted. The playground itself was damaged, as play equipment was blown into the fence, bending the chain link, while other pieces of equipment were blown over the fence to the far reaches of the property. In the front, one of the pilasters was ripped from the building and landed in the front yard, while several of the oaks lost limbs and branches. Two of the old oaks we so treasure were snapped off beyond saving.

Board of Properties Kept Busy

April proved a busy month for the Board of Properties, as many property maintenance issues arose and demanded attention. The April 10 storm required insurance contacts, grounds cleanup and tree care, but the roof held—for that time. The April 17 downpour did result in a roof leak over the fellowship hall which will be repaired under warranty.

The nursery was re-opened thanks to the work of Luther Dube (plaster repair), Kathy Nelson (carpet cleaning), Lisa Fondren, Stella Hlad, Rebecca Knowles, and Katy Rosar (painting and replacing furniture). The cast iron sewer pipe under the driveway finally gave way and had to be repaired with the insertion of a PVC repair and asphalt fix.

Many thanks are due to Bruce Nelson and his faithful crew of volunteers, as they deal with all our properties needs.

Renovation, Step by Step

On April 13, Concordia members approved a multistage renovation of our building, beginning with the expansion of the narthex. Work will begin on April 28-29 with the asbestos abatement of the three walls of the meeting room abutting the present narthex. As soon as this is complete, Four Seasons Restoration will begin removing the south and west walls of the meeting room, thus enlarging the narthex by over 100%. A new ceramic tile floor will be laid in the area and walls will be repainted, along with the hall to the Fellowship Hall.

Doors to the restrooms will be relocated and replaced. The indoor shed and secretary's closet will be combined to provide storage for choir robes and banners, which are now stored in the southwest meeting room of the Fellowship Hall. This southwest room will be converted to accommodate the church copy machines, secretary's computers, fax machine, computer corner from the Fellowship Hall, and related items.

A wall with a lockable door will be constructed to turn the present secretary's area into an office for Erin Rustan, our new Director of Family Ministry. A large shed has been purchased for the storage of tools and other items which do not need climate control and are now stored in various areas of the church. This shed will be placed on the north side of the building with the existing storage facilities. A wholesale cleaning of nooks and crannies was done by members of the Church Council in readiness for these moves.

While we may have to walk through a construction zone for a week or two, we have been assured that disruption will be minimal.

Gas Lease Possibility

Concordia has been approached by an agent of XTO Energy in regards to a possible mineral lease of our property. While they have made an initial offer, the Church Council has asked Bruce Nelson and Hank Henning to begin meetings to determine the intent of their offer and to negotiate the best terms for the church. More details

**Don't forget Mother's Day ,
Sunday, May 11**

MAY 2008

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11 am Bible Study Lunch Bunch 7 pm Board of Lay Ministry, The Grapevine	2	2
4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:01 pm Contemporary Worship	5 7 pm Board of Parish Resources	6 1 pm Solid Food Bible Study 7 pm Board of Properties	7 7 pm Confirmation Class, Board of Fellowship	8 7 pm Board of Youth, The Grapevine	9	10
11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <i>Pentecost, Confirmation, Mother's Day</i>	12 7 pm Board of Christian Education	13 1 pm Solid Food Bible Study	14 7 pm Board of Evangelism	15 7 pm The Grapevine	16 5 pm <i>Ice Cream Party</i>	17
18 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:01 pm Contemporary Worship	19	20 1 pm Solid Food Bible Study	21 <i>Windsock Deadline</i>	22 7 pm Church Council, The Grapevine	23	24
25 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	26	27 1 pm Solid Food Bible Study	28	29 7 pm The Grapevine	30 7 pm <i>Out & About</i>	31 <i>Lutheran Night Rangers Game</i>

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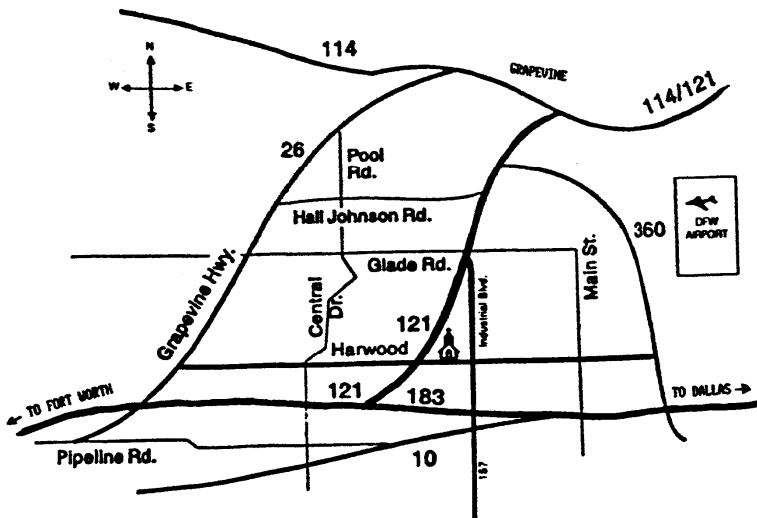
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OUR MISSION AT CONCORDIA

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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