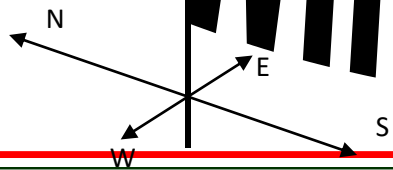


Concordia Lutheran Church

December 2017

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

WINDSOCK



3705 Harwood Rd., Bedford, TX 76021
Office Phone: 817-283-3560

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev Mark Lasch
www.concordialutheran.org

Advent-ures in Christmas

It's hard to believe the merry 'ol season of Christmas lights and overall jollydom is upon us. It is a season proceeded with the giving of thanks that turns quickly to gluttonous revelry which promises 50% off of everything but costs many their soul.

We have the ability to get carried away with Christmas: the songs; the lights; the decorations; the jolly 'ol elf; the senseless spending; the feeling of merry at the expense of holy. What does merry have to do with Mary anyway?

I love the way Mary Advented. We have allowed ourselves a Christmas-Card version of what Christmas means, but the only way to true merriment is by what God was doing in Mary. Hers was not an easy task, bringing the Messiah into the world. It wasn't just 40 weeks of carrying the Son of God and bringing Life into the world. The fact that she was expecting was the death of everything she was expecting. When she was chosen by Joseph many dreams seemed to be coming true. When she was chosen by God those dreams were swallowed up by His purpose, His promise, even at the expense of what Mary was expecting...yet she remained Merry.

No longer could she expect innocent trips into town while waiting for her betrothed. No longer would she be the source of pride as her father presented a radiant bride to her husband on her wedding day. She would be a scandal, the talk of the town, a young woman about whom other woman whispered devilish gossip, and men condemned what would save their soul.

Yet Mary's merriment remained pure, "My soul proclaims your greatness Oh God and my Spirit rejoices in you." Her expectations would yield to Him whom she was expecting, and because of what God was doing, everything would change.

Mary was willing to lay down her life of the expected things in service and love to others as she brought Jesus into the world. This Advent I wonder, are we?

You see, to many of us Advent is kind of like the warm-up for Christmas. In practice it has become what it was intended to be, but is also exactly opposite. Advent is supposed to be a time of preparation – a time to prepare your heart to receive the Messiah when he comes and when he comes again. It is not just preparing for Jesus to be born, it is also preparing for His return. It has become a time of preparing for parties and buying presents. But a lasting merry comes only when one has prepared for presence. That is how Mary advented.

And so my charge to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ has nothing to do with my visa...instead it is about my Lord. As much as preparing for the season of merriment and elves involves the purchasing of presents and parties – be sure to make your preparation for presence of far greater importance. Who among us can name even one present we received last Christmas? Only He can bring peace. Mary Christmas.

In Christ! Pastor Mark

Be an Angel

NEED Angel Tree



This year we will again collect special items for NorthEast Emergency Distribution. In the narthex there is a Christmas tree decorated with paper angels. Each angel has a suggested item that would be very beneficial for the clients of NEED. Consider taking one or more angels from this tree. Please return item(s) by Sunday December 17 so these gifts can be donated before Christmas. Any questions can be directed to Melissa Gattoc or MD Brown.

Thank You for your Kindness and Spirit of Stewardship.

Suggested Items include: Baby Diapers and Wipes, Laundry Detergent & Dish Soap (Dawn/Palmolive), Grocery Gift Cards or Cash Donation, Toiletries (toothpaste, tooth-brush, razor's, soap), Highly requested food items (Hamburger Helper, Canned Chicken, Tuna)

Concordia Special Services Holiday Schedule

- December 6— 6pm Soup Super
7pm Advent Service
- December 13— 6pm Soup Super
7pm Advent Service
- December 17— 11am Worship Service
Children's Christmas Pageant
- December 20— 6pm Soup Super
7pm Advent Service
- December 24— 11am Worship Service
7pm Candle Light Service
9pm Worship Service
- December 31— 11am Worship Service

From the Board of Christian Education...

CLC BOCE Windsock Article
December 2017

Luke 2:10, 11 "I bring you good news of great joy...for unto you is born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

We have exciting events going on this Christmas season!

The Concordia Corner Store will be open December 10 – a great opportunity for the children to buy gifts for family and friends.

On Sunday, December 17, we hope you will join us as the children present the traditional Christmas Story. (Rehearsals are schedule for the following Saturdays: December 2, 9, and 16 from 10a-12p.)

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

~The Board of Christian Education



Serving Concordia in December

LAY MINISTERS: Bruce Nelson and Brad Shepperd

LAY READERS

December 3— Diane Lasch
December 10— Jim Wilson
December 17— JoAnne Truelock
December 24— Jeanice Gerlikovski

DECEMBER USHERS

Traditional
Ushers Needed

Contemporary
Julio Martinez
JoAnne Martinez

N.E.E.D. Needs

December 3: Canned meat (tuna, spam, etc.), Hamburger Helper, and Canned Vegetables.

December 10: Peanut Butter & Jelly, Rotel, and Refried Beans

December 17: Canned Vegetables & Fruits

December 24: Canned Tomatoes, Pasta, Rice, and Beans.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21— Mike Eskew and Alice Allison
28— Garrett and Catherine Coffey
30— Robert and Nancy Bultman



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

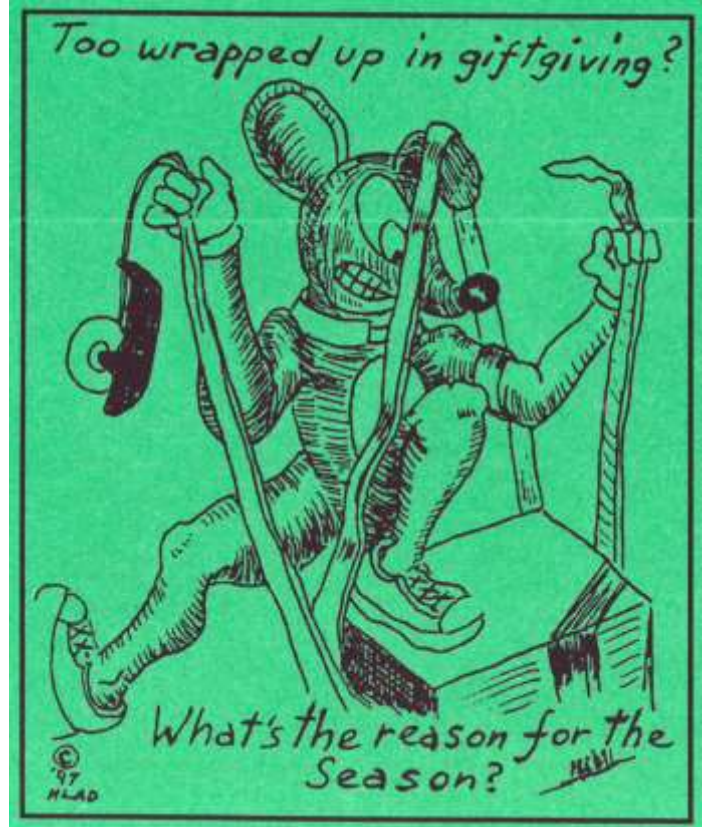
1— Garrett Coffey
1— Edzel Gattoc
2— Ele Masalsalo
5— Gatty Manala
7— Dick Lasch
8— Matthew Schrader
9— Kelly Kennedy
10— Mele Masalsalo
11— Oisin Doyle
12— David Addington
14— Valerie Doyle
14— Carrie Reber
15— Gracie Shaffier
17— Peggy Sigler
20— Nicole Luckenbill
22— Diane Lasch
23— Herb Jacoby
24— Jamie Vineyard
26— Lisa Holley
28— Sharon Anderson
28— Edwin Hoffmann



"If we missed your important date please let us know so we can publish it next year"

Christmas Eve Goody Bags

The Board of Christian Education will pass out Goody Bags to all the children who attend our Christmas Eve Candle Light Services at 7 at Concordia. We will have a designated box or basket in the Fellowship Hall for donations. Please donate candy and in the shell nuts for our children. Thank you for your donations.



In honor of Concordia's 50th Anniversary we will be printing some vintage Church Mouse cartoons. This month's Church Mouse originally appeared in the December 1997 Windsock.

Financial Peace University At Concordia



Class Begins
February 5th, 2018 at 7PM
Class will be coordinated by
John & Heather Finder.
To register for the class go to:
<http://www.fpu.com/1051340>
If you have questions please
reach out to John or Heather.
Hope to see you there!



December 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;">Important December Sundays</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3— Youth Adopt a Family Christmas shopping day 17— Sweet Treats following Children's Christmas Pageant</p>					1	2 Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:00am-12:00pm 6:00PM Adult Christmas Social
3 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	4	5	6 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Advent Service 7:00pm	7	8	9 Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:00am-12:00pm 3:00PM Youth Christmas Party
10 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	11	12	13 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Advent Service 7:00pm	14	15	16 Children's Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 10:00am-12:00pm
17 11:00 am Single Worship Service Children's Christmas Pageant	18	19	20 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Advent Service 7:00pm	21	22	23
24 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 9:00pm Worship Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 11:00 am Worship Service						

Editor: Rev. Mark Lasch
 Publication Manager: Heather Finder
 Director of Distribution: Bruce Nelson
 Internet Webmaster: Jim Wilson
 Cartoonist: Richard Hlad

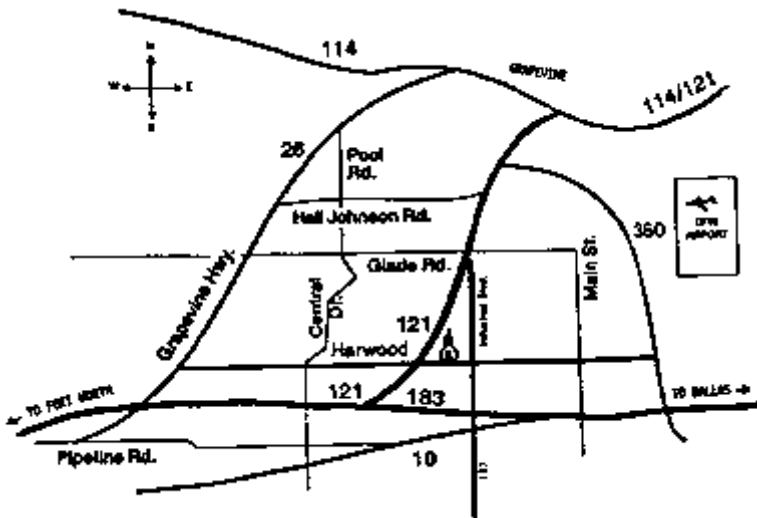
Staff

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.



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 Phone: (817) 283-3560
 Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
 Worship - 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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