

Parish Partyline

Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

May 2019

Prayers, Intercession, & Thanksgiving

God of compassion, whose Son became poor for our sake: Help us to see the face of Christ in those who are poor, and in serving them to serve you. Give us generous hearts so that those living in poverty may have adequate food, clothing, and shelter. By your Spirit move us to affirm the dignity of all people and to work for just laws to protect the most vulnerable in society; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR...

Those serving in the Armed Forces

Chris Wordekemper

Those in Nursing Homes or Homebound

Bonnie Kellogg (Homebound)
Frieda Bowman (Hillcrest)
Marlen & Suzie Johnson (Hillcrest)

Concordia Council Members

President - Grant Settje
Vice President - Hart Vollers
Secretary - Dawn Addison-Corbit
Financial Secretary - Lee Johnson
Financial Liaison - Dustin Thompson
Projects - Trisha Reifenrath

First Council Members

President - Richie Monteith
Vice President - Paul Boyle
Secretary - Vickie Sands
Financial Secretary - Denise Hingst
Treasurer - Chris Beach
Events - Gloria Dowling

Concordia Members

Marilyn Wallin
Georgia Addison
Jade Addison
Dawn Addison-Corbit; Addie, Audra
Brooke Anderson

First Members

Kirt & Shelly Klug; Chris Uhl
Mona & Forrest Kramer; Mariah, Kenny
Shirley Lanser
Barb & Duane Lund
Barry & Linda Martinson

** If you know of people who should be added to our prayers,
please contact Pastor Chris Hjelmstad or Bridgett Connell*

Concordia Council Meeting Highlights

Reflecting God's love in service to all through our family of faith!

The Concordia Council met Monday April 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran in Allen. Present were Pastor Chris, Grant Settje, Hart Vollers, Lee Johnson and Dawn Addison-Corbit. Absent was Trisha Reifenrath.

Grant called the meeting to order. An opening devotion was given by First followed by review of reports and minutes.

Old Business consisted of palms being ordered by Danita Hanson for Palm Sunday. All other old business items will be discussed when information has become available to the council.

New Business discussion included monies distributed to flood relief program(s) and a missionary funding request; families of church members being affected by the flooding, resignation of a council member with a church member consenting to fill the position, college boxes, updating the church website, Reconciliation in Christ vote and one more special offering for Zachary Mitchell. Two seniors will be graduating this May.

The next council meeting is May 6th, 6:30 at Concordia.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus followed by Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Addison-Corbit

First Council Meeting Highlights

One unified body of Christ, called to be agents of love and service to all!

First Lutheran Council met on April 1, 2019. Present were Pastor Chris Hjelmstad, Vickie Sands, Richie Monteith, Paul Boyle, Chris Beach, Denise Hingst, Gloria Dowling, and Bridgett Connell.

Joint council business: new joint council president (Grant Settje), Pastor's report, and summer worship

Old business: New glass in entryway doors and window has been installed, locks will be installed on the women's restroom stalls, and a new sheet with guidelines for ushers is being prepared.

New business: Information on the church's website was updated, offerings from Wednesday Lenten services will go to Lutheran Family Services, council will provide breakfast following the Easter sunrise service on April 21, and some updates were made to the list of members' birthdays and anniversaries.

Upcoming Events:

- Easter worship services at 6:30 and 8:30 on April 21
- Youth Sunday and Holy Humor Sunday on April 28. There will be a joint service at 10:15 at Concordia.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Sands, Secretary

Next council meeting is May 6, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. at Concordia

From Pastor Chris' Desk...



Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Just three days ago (as I write) we formally celebrated the Resurrection. Death and the tomb could not hold Jesus. Jesus took the sins of the whole world with him. He was resurrected, the weight of sin was not. Alleluia! This is the good news of the gospel. Now we are in the season of Easter and learning about what it means to live and be part of a Resurrection community. Sometimes it goes well, other times not so smoothly as we will see in the readings in the weeks ahead. I guess that is pretty much life too!

I am in a synod leadership cohort and we have been given the "small" task to take on the decline of the church and the fear that accompanies this. Our task is not to save the church, but to learn how to navigate the changes and thrive in our individual contexts and hopefully on a wider scale. Some say the church is dying. We've observed, and have heard these and other statements... "Our sanctuaries and Sunday School classes are not as full as they once were. Fewer people seem to make membership a priority in their lives. Young people do not seem to have much interest in church. So many competing activities win out over coming together for worship. So many activities and obligations drain our energy so that we cannot fit in one more thing. Church finances are tight and there's so much ministry that we could do if only we had more money, more people, more resources." And so, work, much needed work, goes left undone. It is scary to look at what has happened in the church over the last 50 years and wonder where it will end up. Will the trends continue?

And...Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Death and the tomb could not hold Jesus. The church will not die. The church *cannot* die because this is Christ's church. The church is an outward expression of the Holy Spirit with us. It is not necessary to have 2,000 members or 200 or even 20 to do the work that is set before us. The Holy Spirit is active and powerful regardless of the number of people gathered. This is resurrection season! Perhaps some things will die. Programs be set aside. Traditions not continued. Even ministry go undone. But God will not leave it at that. God violated death and has and will continue to raise new life out of the darkest tombs! This is resurrection season! Sometimes it will go well, other times not so smoothly. But it will certainly "go!"

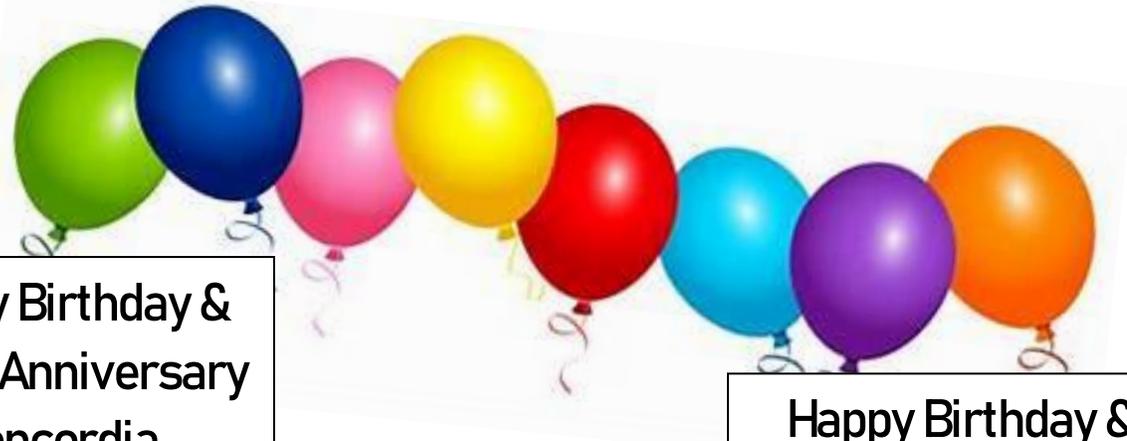
Personally, I hope and pray that our congregations, and in faith communities all over the world, we eventually get down to 0 (zero) members. Yes, you read that correctly: *no members*. My prayer is that our pews and classrooms will begin to see only **disciples**. People of all ages with the desire to learn at Jesus' feet. People of all ages seeking to follow in Jesus' footsteps and care for the poor, the marginalized, the stranger, and the lonely. People of all ages "dying" and rising to new life. People of all ages running to their friends with the message, "I have seen the Lord!" This is being the church!

God has gifted the church, and our congregations, with everything necessary to complete the mission God has set before it. We have all God, and our neighbor needs; if we are lacking in anything, God will provide. God provides us with imagination—the ability to see how things could be, the ability to do things that we've never done before, maybe that no one has ever done before! This is the season of resurrection!

Blessings of the Resurrection! Pastor Chris

Worship Helpers & Celebrations

	First Helpers	Concordia Helpers
Ushers & Greeters	Henry & Clarice Johnson	Les Bohlken & Zach Harder
Acolytes	5/5 Skyler Hammerstrom 5/12 Brogan Jones 5/19 Reed Hingst 5/26 Cheyenne Keil	5/5 Mitchell Fischer 5/12 Josh Grone 5/19 Delaney Johnson 5/26 Kolten Settje
Lay Readers		Tricia Grone
Communion Steward	Vickie Sands	Dawn Addison-Corbit
Altar Guild	Barb Sands	Trisha Reifenrath, Andrea Johnson, Alissa Thompson, & Brandi Settje
Altar Flowers		Lynette Krie
Coffee after Service	5/5 Vickie Sands 5/12 Bridgett Connell 5/19 Tina Boyle 5/26 Denise Hingst	



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia

5/4 Ardyce Johnson
5/5 Grant Anderson
5/9 Gretchen Deitrich
5/13 Jay Vollers
5/15 Tyler Tucker
5/21 Suzie Johnson
5/21 Les & Katie Tucker
5/26 Zach Hauptmann
5/26 Jason & Amanda Fischer
5/27 Steve Anderson
5/29 Brandi Settje
5/29 Taelynn Settje
5/30 T'Kayah Sterling

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First

5/1 Matt Hingst
5/3 Andrew Hogue
5/6 Brennan Beach
5/8 Wyatt Keil
5/15 Court Roberts
5/15 Kaitlyn Beach
5/16 Todd Sullivan
5/16 Emma Beach
5/23 Lindsey Sullivan
5/23 Lyle Carlson
5/29 Henry & Clarice Johnson

Ministry Opportunities

Upcoming Events

CLC Choir Practice

May 1 at 6 p.m.

Mother/Daughter Brunch

May 4 – CLC at 9:30 a.m.

Graduation Reception

May 5 – CLC at 9:30 a.m.

CLC & FLC Council Meeting

May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at CLC

Pastor Vacation

May 7 - May 13

WELCA at First Lutheran

May 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Lesson: Jean Morgan

Hostess: Clarice Johnson

FLC VBS Planning Meeting

May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Allen Methodist Church

Mary, Martha, Moscato

May 27 at 6 p.m. at the parsonage. Chapter 7 of Inspired will be discussed.

Synod Assembly

May 31 – June 1

Adopt-A-Soldier Ministry

Concordia Lutheran Church will continue to support our soldiers with our Adopt-A-Soldier care packages. Boxes are located on the small table in the narthex. Please feel free to add any items you would like to share. Snacks, game items, nuts, are all terrific items. Our members have been so wonderful at filling up boxes with such creative and unique supplies, please continue to be creative!! These care packages are a terrific reminder to our soldiers that we are thinking about them while they are away from their family and friends. Let's continue to shower them with cards, care packages and PRAYERS!! During the year we will still be shipping out a care package once a month.

Sgt. Chris Wordekamper
CMR 388
Box 2077
APO, AP 96208



FACTS ABOUT Parish Ministry Associate (PMA)

PMA's choose how to serve.

You study at your own pace.

PMA's study more than the bible and theology.

PMA's study history, pastoral care, and ethics.

There are PMA's in 18 out of 20 clusters.

There are 46 certified PMA's and 21 students.

There are 16 PMA's assigned by the Bishop.

PMA's are supervised by a Pastor.

Most people start PMA studies in their 50s and 60s.

If you think the PMA sounds interesting to you, please contact Pastor Chris or Pastor Steve Meysing at 308-530-5740.

Ministry Opportunities



FLC--Wyatt Keil, Isaac Verzani, and Brooke Hingst
CLC--Izac Reifenrath and Katie Bathke

Special Congregational Meeting at Concordia *Sunday, May 5, 2019*

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Core Team will provide the congregation with two choices to vote on for our Welcome Statement. This statement is necessary for the RIC designation and will be an important part of our identity as a congregation. The Welcome Statement will not replace our mission statement, but it will expand it. Please join us on May 5 for this historic occasion! ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! Thanks be to God!

FLC – VBS PLANNING MEETING

May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Allen Methodist Church

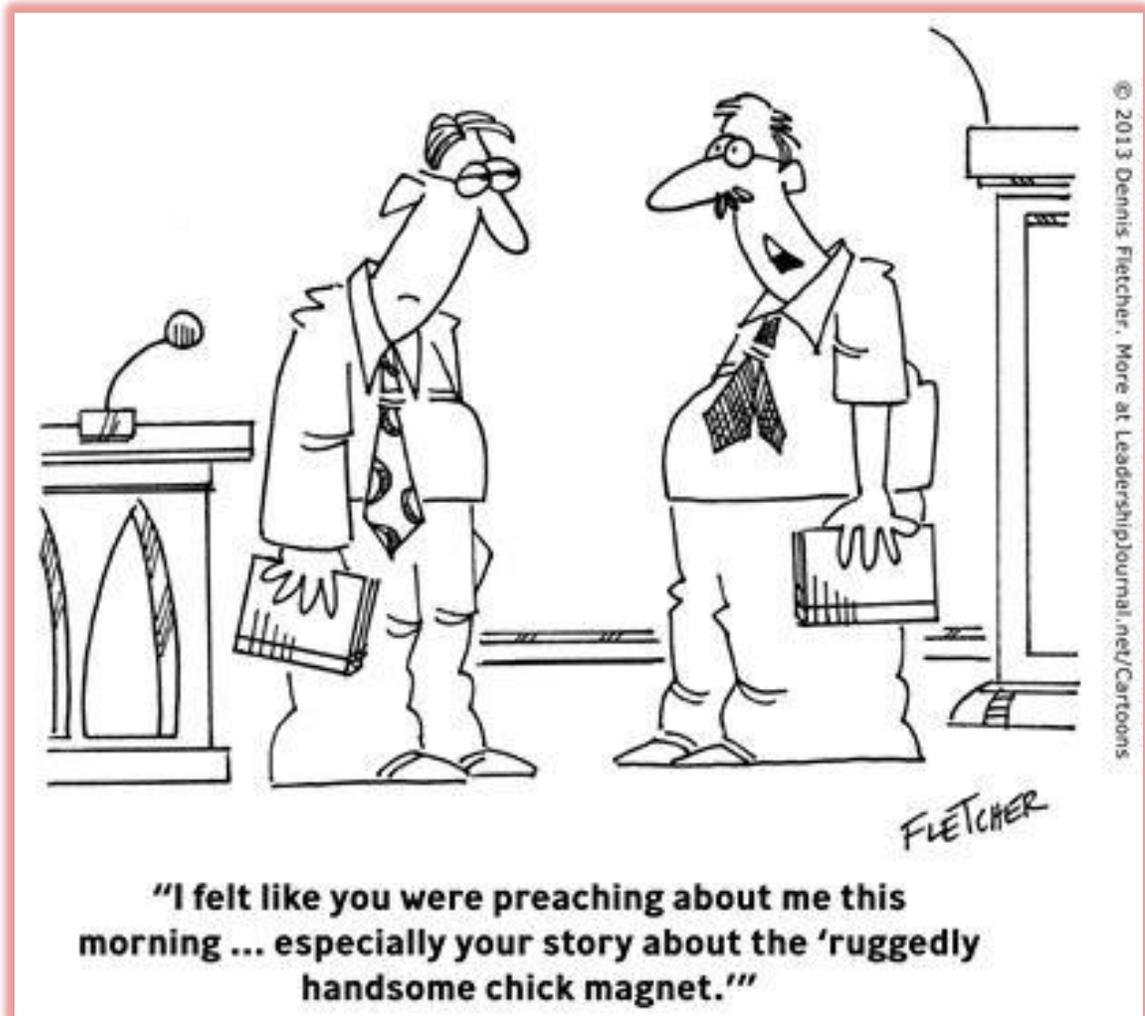
Allen VBS will be June 24-28, 2019 from 9 a.m.-Noon.
If you are available to help, even if you have never done it before, please let Pastor know you can help.

Mother-Daughter Brunch

“Creating a Clean Heart”

CLC will be hosting their annual Mother-Daughter Brunch on May 4th at 9:30 a.m. Plan on attending and bring your daughters, granddaughters, neighbors, and friends.

Humor & Thank Yous



A special thank you to Dustin Thompson for accepting the position on CLC council!

Contact Info

Pastor Chris Hjelmstad
pastorchrishj@gmail.com
(402) 369-4779

Secretary: Bridgett Connell
secretaryatcf@gmail.com
(402) 841-3110

Concordia Lutheran Church

Website: www.concordialutheranelca.com
Facebook: Concordia Lutheran Church, ELCA

First Lutheran Church

Website: www.firstlutheranallen.com
Facebook: First Lutheran Church, ELCA~Allen, NE