

# Parish Pulse

United In Christ  
JUNE 2023

VOL. 27 ISSUE 6

## Pastor's Notes

### Council Meetings

13TH- CLC 7pm

14TH- F 7pm

17TH-ML 7pm

T 7pm

### In This Issue:

2-PARISH NEWS  
3-PARISH/CLC NEWS  
4-CLC NEWS  
5-LN NEWS  
6-PARISH/FAABERG NEWS  
7-TRINITY NEWS  
8-ML NEWS  
9-ML NEWS  
10-PARISH NEWS  
11-PARISH COUNCIL  
12-NEWSLETTER  
13-WORSHIP SCHEDULE

...and then the sun came out.

Wow. I needed that. It is with absolute joy in my heart that I can report that the snow is gone. My children are running outside in shorts and bare feet and things are starting to feel a little more sunny across the board. Soon I will be sending the kids off to Summer Rec and then soon after they will attend as many VBS programs as will take them. Oh the joys of summer. I don't know about you, but I am just a little more receptive to the idea that a loving God walks with us at all times and places when the grass is green.

I hope that these first signs of summer find you well and that the presence of the sun has increased the amount that you smile. I hope that if you possibly can, you make it outside to soak up the warmth and greenery of God's good creation. So often during the Wintertime the world just seems like an endless palette of whites and greys, and I can really forget the gift that this world is. Then overnight, leaves start exploding out of branches and the tulips in my backyard have come out to play. Its then that I remember, he is with us, and he never stops his process of creating new life.

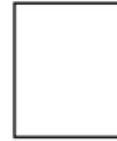
*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted,  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

Pastor Dan Morton

*Concordia Lutheran Church*  
*100th Anniversary*  
**1923-2023**

Concordia Lutheran Church  
PO Box 615  
Fertile, MN 56540



**Saturday, September 30th**

- 4:00 pm** Anniversary Choir Rehearsal  
Concordia Sanctuary,  
all are welcome
- 5:00 pm** **Registration** - Fertile/Beltrami  
High School Commons
- 5:30 pm** **Dinner** - FBHS Old Gym
- 7:30 pm** **Program** -  
Concordia Sanctuary

**Sunday, October 1st**

- 9:30 am** **Worship Service of Praise & Thanksgiving** with Coffee & Cupcakes & Open House

*Please share the Anniversary  
information with family & friends*

*Save the Date  
for the*

*Concordia Lutheran Church*  
**100<sup>th</sup>**  
*Anniversary  
Celebration*

**Saturday, September 30th & Sunday, October 1st, 2023**

JUNE 2023

## Concordia Worship Participants

Thank you for serving in this capacity!  
If you are unable to serve on the Sunday listed  
please exchange with someone on the list and  
notify the church office.

### Altar Guild:

Verna Norland  
Ginny Strem

9:30 a.m. Worship

### JUNE 4-Parish Service

**Ushers:** Isaac Ness & Tim Fuchs

**Greeters:** Dave & Ginny Strem;  
Dustin & Elissa Raaen

**Lector:** Chuck Schulstad

**Communion Assistants:**  
Lori, Natty, & Zoe Messick;  
Steve Gullickson

**Live Stream:**

### JUNE 11

**Ushers:** Jan & Cort Christianson

**Greeters:** Terry & Caty Larson

**Lector:** Ray Nelson

**Assisting Minister:** Isaac Ness

**Communion Assistants:**

Karin & Chad Braun

**Live Stream:**

### JUNE 18

**Ushers:** Chris & Caiden Swenby

**Greeters:** Richard & Sherry Wellman

**Assisting Minister:** Shane Erickson

**Lector:** Richard Wellman

**Communion Assistants:**

Dick & Kelsey Braun

**Live Stream:**

### JUNE 25

**Ushers:** Tim & Matthew Sykes

**Greeters:** Lyle & Diane Fuchs

**Lector:** Verna Norland

**Communion Assistants:**

Betty Nelson, Cindy Leiser

**Live Stream:**

## Pastoral Acts for May Concordia:

### Burials-

-Caroline Marion Erickson;

Pr. Dan Morton

-Byron Oliver Olson;

Pr. Darrell Morton

-LaVonne Beverly "Punky" Jallo;

Varnes Lutheran Cemetery-Fertile

Pr. Dan Morton

## Maple Lake:

### Funeral-

-Ryan "Otis" Lyndell Johnson;

Pr. Dan Morton

## Burials:

-Shirley Hope Andersen;

Fairview Cemetery Beltrami;

Pr. Dan Morton



## Blasting off for adventure!

Concordia VBS

June 11-15; 4:30-7pm

Students will need a sack lunch and water  
bottle every night EXCEPT FOR Thursday,  
June 15. That night we will be serving pizza for  
supper! They should still bring a water bottle  
for drinks between rotations.

We are so excited for a STELLAR  
week of VBS!





## Concordia Lutheran Church Council Meeting May 9, 2023

President Taylor Sannes called the meeting of Concordia's Church Council to order on May 9, 2023 @ 7:02 pm. Those present were Pastor Dan Morton, Taylor Sannes, Nick Neibauer, Carol Petersen, Karl Tollefson, Kristina Sandberg, Liz Lisburg, Lori Walters, Salome Hansen, Mackinzie Burke, and Sue Lindberg.

Taylor opened with devotions from James 3: 5-6.

The Secretary's Report The secretary's report was reviewed and accepted (Nick/Carol) M/S/A.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Report The treasurer's report was accepted as presented (Tina/Sue) M/S/A. A motion was tabled until June on applying memorial account monies into CD's at the bank with interest rates improving.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan reported more pastors are needed for pulpit supply for upcoming Sunday's. Pastor Dan recommends a Parish wide church service at Concordia be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> and will discuss this with the Parish board.

Committee Reports:

Management and Finance: (Nick) An estimate for gutter covers was received from Advantage Seamless Gutters with plans to obtain more quotes. A new vacuum with a carpet attachment is needed to use on the carpeted steps and will be purchased.

Outreach: (Mackinzie) The website for the UCLP is updated and completed. New colored membership guide brochures are done.

Home and church Life: (Liz) Senior Sunday is May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30 am, with 14 Seniors being recognized and receiving their quilts. Cake has been ordered to serve after services.

Education: (Tina) The painting is done in the Education unit, rooms, hallways, chapel, and the kitchen. The chalk boards have been removed. White boards will be installed. Rooms will be reorganized in the Education room to make room for all students. 35 students have registered for VBS, June 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> with more students expected. A motion to obtain prices for room darkening blinds for the Education unit was made (Nick/Karl) M/S/A. The Sunday School children are singing May 14<sup>th</sup> and will be the last day for Sunday School.

Daycare: (Lori) Andrea has applied for grant monies to pay for rubber chips for the playground area of the daycare.

Worship: (Carol) Plans are to simplify the liturgy for summer worship services. A letter from the Polk County Fair Board was discussed regarding a float for the parade.

Old Business: The Parsonage Committee has been formed and includes: Olivia and Pastor Dan Morton, Nick Neibauer, Isaac Larson, Loren Abel, Tyler Christianson, Ryan Strem, Carol Swenby, Karl Tollefson, and Mackinzie Burke.

The congregation is encouraged to ask questions of the committee members and they will keep the congregation apprised on the progress.

Adjournment motion was made @8:30 pm. (Sue/Nick) M/S/A followed by the Lord's Prayer.

## *Little Norway June Anniversaries & Birthdays*

### *Anniversaries*

01-Mark & Heidi Benson  
05-Mike & Kristen Larson  
07-Mark & Lynne Gullickson  
12-Charles & Barbara Schulstad  
19-Garth & Colleen Kaste  
25-Alex & Sara Preusser

### *Birthdays*

02-Kate Larson  
Roger Moe  
10-Carolyn Troite  
22-Timothy Larson  
28-Jamie Morvig

**June Deacon**-Roger Moe **Janitor**-Mark Gullickson

**Altar Guild & Communion Prep (April, May, & June 2023)**

Kathy Christensen, Susan Jones, & Dione Rasmussen

**Esther/Mary Circle**- June 1st, 2:00pm at church

**Dorcas Circle**- June 12th, 7:00pm at church

**May Readers**- June 4-Chuck Schulstad June 11-Roger Moe

June 18-Lucy Fuglseth June 25th-Carolyn Troite



**The Little Norway Cemetery Association would like to remind you that all artificial flowers are to be removed from the cemetery by July 1. This aids with cleanup and maintenance of our cemetery.**

**Thank you for your help .**

*\*Parish Office Hours\**

**SUMMER PARISH OFFICE HOURS  
(Starting after Memorial Weekend)**

The Parish Office will be open Monday-Thursday 8:30a.m.- 4:00 p.m.; CLOSED on Fridays. If at any time you need a Pastor, you may reach Pastor Dan at 320-260-6955. Thank you.

**Attention Concordia Church Tradesmen:**

Concordia is seeking bids for the parsonage remodel project. Currently, we are looking for contractors in the following areas:



Electrical  
Plumbing/HVAC  
Carpentry  
Concrete  
Flooring  
Painting



For more details, please contact Tyler Christianson (701-367-8848) or Ryan Strem (218-280-3341) by June 30th.



---

*Faaberg Announcements*

The Faaberg Afternoon Bible Study group will meet Monday, June 12, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. with Vicki Krogstad leading the study.

Those attending the Fair Hills Retreat Tuesday, June 13th, can meet for rides at Faaberg at 7:30 a.m. It should be a wonderful day!

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

May 17, 2023

Members present: Sharon Lenz, Joni Page, Jolene Billing, Dean Smith, Pr Dan Morton, Barb Hamre and Kristy Langved.

President Sharon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pr Dan led devotions, reading from Jeremiah 29.

Kristy gave the secretary's report from March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and the special congregational meeting of April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dean made a motion to accept them as read, seconded by Barb and carried.

Jolene presented the treasurer's report. Dean made a motion to file as read, seconded by Joni and carried.

Dan gave the pastor's report, saying that because he was unable to get pulpit supply for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we will have a parish worship at Concordia that day. All other days in June are covered. People are encouraged to use their own church offering envelopes or indicate some way which church your offering should go to that day.

Old business: Church bought 2 new vacuum cleaners and paid for them out of the kitchen supply fund. Everyone is encouraged to sign up to clean the church through the summer.

New business: Kristy made a motion to accept the parish offer to reduce our monthly contribution by 25% to \$2294, seconded by Dean and carried.

Sharon explained the "Water to Thrive" project. Sharon and Kristy had attended a meeting where Pr. Blom had talked about it. The parish board has decided to take on this project and Pr Blom will be speaking at the fair services.

Quilts and kits are all packed for Lutheran World Relief. We will put them all in Sharon's and Jolene's cars tonight and they will bring them to Grand Forks tomorrow. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project.

There is a broken vent on the roof. Dean will look into it.

Dean made a motion to give \$100 offering and pay Barb's registration fee to the synod for the convention, which is June 3, 2023. Barb is our delegate.

No other business, we closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Langved, secretary



June is bustin' out all over....or maybe it is love is bustin' out all over....the melody is in my head, but I don't remember the words!! Anyway, it feels like the trees and flowers are bustin' out all over with color and hope for June! It is beautiful all around us.

June 3rd – Synod Convention. Pam Sorensen is our delegate and will be attending the session in Bemidji.

June 5-9 – VBS “Stellar! Shine Jesus’ Light!” 5:30 – 8:00. Kids 3 years old through 6th grade are welcome. Call or text Angie Petry for registration 701-866-5043 (she has had this number since they lived in Fargo/ Moorhead many moons ago!) The VBS program will be at 9:00 on June 11th at Maple Lake.

June 12 – 13 – Fair Hills Women’s retreat on Pelican Lake, Detroit Lakes. Come and enjoy the day with new and old friends as we strengthen our faith in Jesus as women in God’s Service. It will be a good day!

June 21 – Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Besides the quilts this year, the women were able to assemble 12 Baby Care Kits! That was new for us and since there were extra items left over we will have some sewed for next year. Thanks to all who sewed, bought and brought the necessary items. All will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

We send our sympathy and love to Maynard and Sheri Johnson in the loss of their son, Ryan. We hold them and Ryan’s siblings, Jamie and Brooke, up to the Lord in prayer.

Thanks to all for pitching in at church to keep things running smoothly during this time. We miss Pastor Phil and keep him in our prayers. We appreciate the pastors who have come to lead services and keep our schedules as normal as possible. We thank God for watching over us and taking care of our every need – that includes Pastor Dan!

Greeters and custodians for June are Dusty and Elissa Raaen and family (oh boy, I think she forgot about June being VBS month!!)

We switch worship service time to 9:00 for the summer months and we will also be having coffee after church two times a month! With that, THANKS BE TO GOD!!

---

*Submitted by: Marlene Block*



**Maple Lake Church Council Minutes**

**Date:** May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Attending:** Karen Lunak, Tracy Johnson, Marlene Block, Angie Petry, & MaryBeth Swanson.

**Devotions:** Karen Lunak

**Secretary's Report:** MM/S by Marlene Block/Karen Lunak to accept minutes as submitted. MC.

**Treasurer's Report:** MM/S by Karen Lunak/Angie Petry to accept report as submitted. MC.

**Pastor's Report:** Tracy reported that there will only be one service on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be at Concordia at 9:30 a.m. and Offering should be designated by envelope or memo to the appropriate church.

**Parish Board Report:** No report

**Deacon's Report:** Karen suggested having treats after Senior Sunday. She is organizing people to bring treats for Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Karen will also be reviewing Deacon responsibilities with new deacons thanks to Beverly Slevin's excellent attention to detail.

**Trustees' Report:** No Report

**Old Business:**

1. Sign Update: After some challenges cutting the sign one side is complete. There was a delay waiting for printing materials but it should be complete this week.
2. Snow Removal costs this year have become extremely cost prohibitive. Tracy will contact the trustees to begin soliciting other options for snow removal.
3. Quarterly letter on giving: Tracy will contact Maynard to go ahead to send out the quarterly updates on giving and financial health of the church for our members. We will include the Treasurers report document and highlight the areas of need.
4. New Sidewalk project: Paul Qualley would like to install a new sidewalk in honor of his father. He can do and pay for materials. Marlene will remain in contact with Paul for scheduling purposes. A goal of the council is to have this project completed this fall.
5. The Church weather vane is broken at the top of the church. Angie Petry used their drone to view the damage before sending someone up to fix it. She will share the footage with the Trustees. Also, it was noted that Erick Engelstad has a lift that would be able to reach the weather vane. It is unknown what material it is made of (Aluminum or Tin).
6. Curt Block will be painting the South portion of the church in June.

**New Business:**

1. Joe's Northwoods Pest Control will be here to spray for bugs in May. They are in contact with Angie Petry & Marlene Block for scheduling (as to not interfere with painting).
2. Pastor Phil Blom is starting a Well Project to unite our parish. Sunday School teachers/VBS leaders will attend an upcoming meeting to learn about the fundraiser and how we can help. More information is coming.

**Adjourn:** MM/S to adjourn by Brenda Langved/John Swanson. MC. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:29 p.m.

**Next council meeting:** Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

*Submitted by: MaryBeth Swanson*



# Concordia Senior Quilts

(14 this year)



Wonderful!  
Beautiful  
Amazing





## United in Christ Parish Council

May 25, 2023

President Kip Fontaine called the meeting to order at 9:05. Members present were Kip, Belinda Fjeld, Verna Norland, Jeff Gullickson, Pr. Dan Morton, Lyle Fuchs and Kristy Langved.

Verna led devotions, focusing on Psalm 99.

Kristy gave the secretary's report from the April 27 meeting. Lyle made a motion to approve as read, seconded by Belinda and carried. Kristy then read minutes from a May 3<sup>rd</sup> email motion and vote and a May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with Pr. Phil Blom about "Water to Thrive". Verna made a motion to approve those minutes as read, seconded by Lyle and carried.

Lyle presented the treasurer's report. There was discussion about a new laptop to be used with the video equipment at Concordia. Jeff made a motion that Pr. Dan purchases the needed computer, seconded by Belinda and carried.

Pr. Dan gave the pastor's report. Nothing new, only that pulpit supply is difficult to find.

Old business: Belinda reported on the Polk County Fair service. Pr. Phil Blom has agreed to speak at that service. We need volunteers from all the churches to assist with reading scripture, ushering, collecting offering, greeting, etc. The offering will go to "Water to Thrive".

Lyle reported on the Employee Retention Credit opportunity. He said that in order to qualify a business needs to be able to show they had a 25% reduction in receipts during the covid crisis. Because we didn't have that, we don't qualify.

Kristy and Dan reported that Trinity meeting twice monthly is working at this time.

Because of no available pulpit supply, we will have a parish service on June 4, at Concordia. Pr. Dan will speak.

New business: Belinda talked about the well project, "Water to Thrive." The meeting that was held with Pr. Blom was attended by Belinda, Verna, Kristy, Dorothy Harstad and Sharon Lenz. We would like to form a committee with representation from all five churches.

Lyle made a motion to close the church office on Fridays during June, July, and August. Seconded by Verna and carried.

The next meeting will be June 15, 2023. Kip adjourned the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Langved, secretary



## Newsletter May 2023

Dear friends,

Early in May I was able to visit our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) and to see the work of the church supporting communities affected by Cyclone Freddy.

Tropical Cyclone Freddy was the longest-lasting and most powerful cyclone ever recorded. Hardest-hit was southern Malawi where incessant rains caused catastrophic flash floods. The death toll is over 1200 with several hundred still missing.

Rev. Innocent Nangwale, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi Dean of Blantyre, said, "Everyone was afraid during the torrential rains, wondering what would happen that day and the next."

There was also widespread loss of crops and livestock as well as damage to thousands of homes. Hundreds of people sheltered in government-provided "camps" (schools, halls or large tents).



We visited Bvumbwe Parish, to see cyclone damage to the church, which was only completed last year. For now, the congregation is worshipping in a nearby school as they prepare to rebuild the collapsed walls.

In Blantyre we met ELCM presiding bishop Joseph Bvumbwe at the church guest house, which is being used as a temporary storage for bags of maize, soy, beans and salt for distribution to affected families in the area. One 25kg (55lb) bag of maize costs about \$30. Each family will receive half a bag which may last 5-6 days. The Bishop noted that it was not enough but that it was a sign of support and encouragement

and referred to Job 14:7, "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again."

Around Phalombe and Zomba we visited several cyclone-affected communities being assisted by the Evangelical Lutheran Development Services (ELDS) led by director Dickens Mtonga and his project officers. We saw how crops ready for harvest along the river had been swept away. Fortunately, the project's sweet potato seed-bank plot was still intact and is being used to plant new crops in the place of the lost corn crop. Also, mustard greens were planted as a fast growing vegetable to fill the food gap. The community sang songs welcoming the visitors and a short drama was performed promoting the work of the Self Help Groups (SHG's) in improving livelihoods, food security and resilience in the community.



Local community leaders and SHG members thanked the ELCM, ELDS and the ELCA for their accompaniment and asked for continuing support. (ELCA Service and Justice has approved funding support for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) applications from the ELCM, ELDS and ACT Alliance)

Thank you for your prayers, support and participation in God's Mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson ELCA Regional Representative - Southern Africa  
May 8, 2023

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>

Please visit my [fundraising page](#). (Note: This fundraising page is set up for individuals' gifts only.)

If you are donating on behalf of a congregation or organization, please visit [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](https://ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving) for online giving.

**\*\*Sunday June 4,2023 will be a Parish Worship Service at Concordia\*\***