



Concordia News

March 2013



Volume 8

A newsletter for members, families, and friends of
Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association

Number 3

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At the beginning of Lent, we read in the Gospel of Luke about Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness as being the first event immediately following his baptism, which was the inauguration of his ministry. The number 40 weaves its way through scripture. As we track the usage of this number (40) throughout scripture we see some very important themes accompanying it. I pass on the following portion of the online resource Wikipedia for your information.

Good Friday services will be March 29 and Easter will be March 31. Lenten services will follow a simple supper (5:00 on Wednesdays) which will continue through March 20th.

I wish you and yours a blessed Lent,

Pastor Bruce

The number forty has many Biblical references: the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18); the forty days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8); the forty days and nights God sent rain in the great flood of Noah (Genesis 7:4); the forty years the Hebrew people wandered in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land (Numbers 14:33); the forty days Jonah gave in his prophecy of judgment to the city of Nineveh in which to repent or be destroyed (Jonah 3:4).

Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where He fasted for forty days, and was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-2, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-2). He overcame all three of Satan's temptations by citing scripture to the devil, at which point the devil left Him, angels ministered to Jesus, and He began His ministry. Jesus further said that His disciples should fast "when the bridegroom shall be taken from them" (Matthew 9:15), a reference to his Passion. Since, presumably, the Apostles commemoration of his burial.

It is the traditional belief that Jesus lay for forty hours in the tomb[9] which led to the forty hours of total fast that preceded the Easter celebration in the early Church[11] (the biblical reference to 'three days in the tomb' is understood as spanning three days, from Friday afternoon to early Sunday morning, rather than three 24 hour periods of time). One of the most important ceremonies at Easter was the baptism of the initiates on Easter Eve. The fast was initially undertaken by the fasted as they mourned the death of Jesus, Christians have traditionally fasted during the annual catechumens to prepare them for the reception of this sacrament. Later, the period of fasting from Good Friday until Easter Day was extended to six days, to correspond with the six weeks of training, necessary to give the final instruction to those converts who were to be baptized.

Converts to Catholicism followed a strict catechumenate or period of instruction and discipline prior to baptism. In Jerusalem near the close of the fourth century, classes were held throughout Lent for three hours each day. With the legalization of Christianity (by the Edict of Milan) and its later imposition as the state religion of the Roman Empire, its character was endangered by the great influx of new members. In response, the Lenten fast and practices of self-renunciation were required annually of all Christians, both to show solidarity with the catechumens, and for their own spiritual benefit.

Donations

With Our Thanks

Concordia Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Evangeline Johnson

Donald and Wendy Johnson

In Memory of Alton Mjolsness

Family of Alton Mjolsness

In memory of Doris Eidem

Harold and Sally Horpedahl

(inadvertently omitted in previous issues)

Concordia News

In memory of Valdemar Hagene

Irene Morken Hogstad

In Memory of George Lee

Lorna & Burton Rockstad, Orpha & Kjell Hoelstad,

Osie Juve, Ella Swanson

In memory of Will and Luella Grover

Susie Offutt

Donations

Jean Anderson, Clinton Babolian, Jim Skree,

Harry & Phyllis Fillafer, Ralph & Barb Grover,

Amy Kragnes, Lois Horpedahl

Concordia General Fund

In Memory of George Lee

Delores Hagene and family, Myron Hagene,

Regina Hanson, Gordon & Sue Kassenborg,

Mavis & Richard Wang, Jim & Linda Koester,

Neil & Polly Hanson

Concordia Church

In Memory of Gene Kragnes

Stacking chairs with arms for the dining room

and new cushions for the altar chairs



Concordia Boards

At the annual meeting on February 3, **church officers** were elected as follows:

President: Gordon Kassenborg

Secretary: Sylvia Teigen

Treasurers: Neil & Polly Hanson

Directors: Irene Olson

Wescott Tommerdahl

Walter Teigen

Harold Horpedahl

Sincere thanks are extended to retiring president Don Johnson and directors Lloyd Gunderson and Karolynn Teigen

Cemetery **association board members** were re-elected:

President: Aron Kassenborg

Treasurer: Ray Johnson

Board Members: Wescott Tommerdahl

Gerald Hagene

Harold Horpedahl

Two cemetery board positions remain vacant. If interested in serving, contact Aron or Ray.

Recipe of the Month Apple Spice Cake

Ingredients

3 Granny Smith apples
2 MacIntosh apples
1 TB fresh lemon juice
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
1 1/8 tsp cinnamon
4 large eggs
2 cups granulated sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
½ cup orange juice
2 ½ tsp vanilla extract
Confectioners sugar



Directions

- Preheat oven to 350
- Halve all 5 apples and cut them into ½ inch wedges Toss in lemon juice in a large bowl
- Coat 9 X 13 cake pan with cooking spray. Line with parchment, leaving an overhang on two sides.
- Mix flour, baking soda, and 1 tsp cinammon
- In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, oil, orange juice and vanilla
- Add flour to egg mixture and mix until just combined.
- Add half the apples to the flour mixture and spread evenly in pan.
- Arrange remaining apples on top. Sprinkle with remaining cinnamon.
- Bake 50-60 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean.
- Cool for 15 minutes in the pan. Use the overhanging parchment to transfer the cake to a wire rake to cool completely.
- Dust with confectioners sugar and serve.

From the Mailbag

I can hardly wait for next month's issue of the newsletter! One of the first things at Concordia after I came was an exhibit of her paintings that had been loaned for the exhibit. I also met and called on Orabel while I was at Concordia.



Pastor Wes Mathre

Orabel's Altarpiece (Part 2)

By Markus Krueger

*of the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County
Reprinted by permission from the society newsletter*

Then came October, 1936. Orabel and her sister Flo, roommates in Minneapolis, were called home because their mother needed surgery. She came out of the operation but did not recover. On October 6th, Ingabor Thortvedt died with her children at her bedside. Her body was brought home for the visitation. Orabel's painting of *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane* hung in the southwest corner of the room. In her tear-jerking account of her mother's death in the 1934-1937 Thortvedt Family Diary, Orabel wrote "It was a hard day for dad – when he hobbled painfully on his crutches to the coffin to take his first look at his sweetheart and wife – dry sobs wracked his frame...It was a love-match – mama confided to us daughters that papa was the only one she cared for – They had their ups and downs in their marital life but love did not die on either side – and dad paid mother the biggest compliment any person can pay another and that is to die of grief for her."

Orabel said goodbye to her father for the last time on October 13th as she and Flo returned to Minneapolis. Orabel returned to her work. She was doing an ink drawing of some Pekinese dogs when her roommate Florence "Girlie" Johnk tapped her on the shoulder, on the verge of tears. The phone had rung but Orabel, being mostly deaf, could not hear it. She scrambled for her hearing aid. "Is it papa!" Orabel asked. The old pioneer was not expected to live through the night. Orabel frantically packed her bags and borrowed \$4 for cab fare and a ticket home.

Orabel Thortvedt was at a crossroads in her life. Stay in Minneapolis and continue her artistic career or go home to the farm and family. Just before her father died she put all of her money into art supplies, a sign that she fully intended to continue in Minneapolis as a working artist until she lost both of her parents within three weeks. If she agonized over the decision return home, she did not write about it in any accounts that we have come across in the archives. Orabel took over Levi Thortvedt's duties of writing the family diary and keeping the family stories.

Orabel tried to continue working as an artist at the farm. While it was very difficult to make a living as an artist in Minneapolis, it was all but impossible to make it as a working artist in 1930s Fargo-Moorhead. She found a few patrons, most importantly Helen and W.W. Wallwork. Helen was a former president of the Fine Arts Club and her husband owned show horses and race horses, ironic considering that, as one of the area's early car salesmen, he was responsible for taking a

lot of horses off the roads. Orabel did some illustrations for a book and submitted two short stories to magazines but nothing was published. She worked on a portrait of her grandfather, Ola Thortvedt, in her attic studio.



Orabel worked to repair the original altar painting

Meanwhile, the Concordia Lutheran Church was rising from the rubble. On November 12, 1936, less than two weeks after her father died, the Thortvedt house received visitors. "[A]t noon Rev Runsvold and Mr. Swanson came to get measurements of "Gethsemane" – the old painting that I had restored after it had been ravaged by the tornado." They came for the repaired 1894 painting but they left intent on convincing the congregation to choose Orabel's version of the scene instead. "There will be a meeting next Monday in which Rev Runsvold will put it to vote to see if the Congregation will want my painting as altarpiece and the old one to be put down in the Sunday School room" Orabel wrote in the diary that day. "I would indeed be honored if my picture is chosen – one of my cherished dreams come true." *This story concludes in the next issue of Concordia News.*

MARCH 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>"Prairie Daughters: The Art and Lives of Annie Stein and Orabel Thorsrud" all month at the Hjemkoms Center</p>					<p>1  Peggy Kragnes</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 PURPLE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6  LENTEN SERVICE and Prayer</p>	<p>7  Kathy Grover</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9  REMEMBER? Set Your Clocks Ahead!</p>
<p>10 PURPLE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 1:30 pm  WOMEN OF THE BIBLE</p>	<p>13  LENTEN SERVICE and Prayer</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 PURPLE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 1st Day of Spring  LENTEN SERVICE and Prayer Kardlynn Decker</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22  Jim & Linda Koester</p>	<p>23  Ralph & Barb Grover</p>
<p>24 PURPLE PALM SUNDAY DINNER 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>  Curt & Kris Lynde	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27  LENTEN SERVICE and Prayer Dick Wang</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30  David Kragnes</p>
<p>31 EASTER WHITE 9 am Coffee 10 am Worship</p>  David & Peggy Kragnes						

Concordia News is published monthly by Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association.

Concordia News

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announcements, etc.**

Email: news@concordianews.org

Mail: Karolynn Teigen-Decker
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Moorhead MN 56560

Submission deadline is the 20th of the month

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*You are always welcome at
Concordia Lutheran Church*

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Sunday Worship:

Coffee Hour: 9:00 a.m

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Communion: 1st Sunday of the month

Concordia Women of the ELCA:

Second Tuesday: 1:30 p.m.

Pastor:

Bruce Krogstad

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