

Concordia News – Large Print

June 2017

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

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We who live in the NW MN Synod are blessed to have a Bishop who is not just an administrator but who is first and foremost a pastor and theologian. I'd like to pass on a sermon he gave this spring commenting about portions of John 11:1-45. It is relevant

to us as Christians, Lutherans and particularly as worshipers who gather in church steeped in history.. I hope you are blessed by this message as I was:

In this Gospel lesson we come across two of the Bible's most precious gems.

One of these gems is verse 25, where Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life ..."

The other comes ten verses later: "Jesus began to weep, or as an older translation put it: "Jesus wept." – the shortest verse in the Bible.

The first of these two verses cheers us when we mourn: "I am the resurrection and the life."

The second of these gems cheers squirrely confirmation students seeking an easy short Bible verse to memorize. John 11:35 is like the free square in the center of the Scrabble board: “Jesus wept.” Check!

All kidding aside, these two verses encapsulate this entire 11th chapter of St. John’s Gospel.

Because of the things everyone needs to know about Jesus is that he wept. Jesus was and is truly human, really one of us.

Jesus wasn’t protected from life’s hard edges. He didn’t get a “free pass” from the dregs of our existence.

.”*Jesus wept.*” John doesn’t pinpoint precisely why Jesus wept. Was it on account of his deep affection for Lazarus and his sisters? Did he regret not getting to Bethany sooner, before Lazarus died? Or did Jesus weep because everyone else was weeping? Or did Lazarus’s death remind Jesus of his own impending death?

“*Jesus wept.*” Let those two words sink in: we have a Savior whose tear ducts are fully functional.

“*Jesus wept.*” Even as we have wept and we shall weep again – because losing loved ones is awful, because death is – literally! – the pits.

Jesus wept.” Sums up one key thread of this story. God’s Word in human flesh knew grief intimately.

But these were not tears of despair.

Verse 33 mentions that “When Jesus saw (Mary) weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.”

“*Greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved*” – that phrase depicts Jesus suddering, being shaken to the core, angry even at the horrible hold death has on us!

Jesus groans as he approaches Lazarus’s grave because he knows in his bones that this isn’t right – this state of affairs shall not stand!

In Jesus’ tears there’s an undercurrent of righteous anger – indeed a defiance of death stirring deep within Jesus.

Jesus travels to Bethany to pick a fight with death – to announce that death is about to be up-ended.

Which leads us to the other gem in this lesson, “*I am the resurrection and the life.*”

Jesus speaks these words in response to Martha who at first chided Jesus for dilly-dallying and then – in the same breath – voiced her hope that Lazarus would rise again on the Last Day, the Resurrection Day...but Jesus cut her off with one of the most astonishing promises in the Gospels: “*I am* *the resurrection and the life.*”

Here Jesus snatches the hope of a future resurrection and ushers it right into the present moment, boldly announcing that in him

the resurrection is already walking around on two feet. Life itself is pushing its way through the mourners wailing at Lazarus's tomb.

Jesus goes beyond promising resurrection and life in God's good time. He insists that he, Jesus **is** the resurrection and the life, right here, right now.

And that's why Jesus didn't scurry off to Bethany the moment he heard of Lazarus's mortal illness. Jesus waited so that Lazarus could get "good and dead," four days in the grave, all traces of his spirit having vanished from the scene...

Jesus needed Lazarus to be really dead so that folks would witness God's power not just to *prevent* death but to *undo* death.

Jesus arrives in Bethany, seemingly too late, with the stench of decay already in the air. He waits for just the right moment, when all seems utterly lost, in order to take charge of the situation.

For in Jesus **the Resurrection and the Life has arrived to pick a fight with Death** – and that's a fight that Death is surely going to lose.

As if all that were not enough, Jesus commandeers those around him to help him finish this astonishing miracle.

Isn't it fascinating that instead of crawling into the tomb and single-handedly dragging Lazarus out Jesus calls to Lazarus – issues an executive order, fully confident that dead Lazarus will hear it and obey.

And then when Lazarus shuffles to the door of this tomb, Jesus hustles the whole community into action: “*Unbind him, and let him go.*” Come on, folks, turn Lazarus loose!

Let’s call this “round one” in a three-round battle that our Lord waged with Death.

Virtually every detail in our gospel lesson foreshadows another drama, soon to play out in Jerusalem.

The late great preacher Fred Craddock observes, “The ***passion of Jesus bleeds through the surface of this story ... Jesus is experiencing something like a Gethsemane, for he knows that calling Lazarus out of the tomb means that he must enter it.***”

When Jesus is arrested, tried, executed and buried he dealt Death a knockout punch. Let’s call that “Round Two” in our Lord’s fight-to-the-finish with Death...The Resurrection and the Life won that round – for you and me and all people.

But there’s even more: the story of Lazarus, along with the passion of our Lord Jesus ... these core narratives of faith “bleed through” into our own lives of following Jesus today.

We weep – as Jesus wept – because death still robs us so cruelly, so brazenly.

We weep though, as persons who feel it in our bones that this sad state of affairs shall not stand.

Our Risen Lord Jesus is seeing to that! Whatever sort of “tomb” we may be stuck in **Jesus is always calling us out of the darkness and into the light.**

Let’s call this “Round Three” in the battle between death and the Resurrection and the Life.

Jesus is still catching us up in this fight to the finish with death. Jesus “calls us out” – out of whatever tomb holds us captive. And – lo and behold – Jesus even enlists us to be part of the action, calling out others, setting free those whom Jesus places in our paths, just as Jesus enlisted Lazarus’s neighbors to unwrap the bands of grave-cloths and turn him loose.

This is, in fact, the most critical thing that marks us, not just as a happy club to belong to, but as the community of Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, even now, here today.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bruce

Coffee and Cookie Servers

June 4 Becky Jegtvig

July 2 Irene Olson

June 11 Sue Kassenborg

July 9 Gordy Kassenborg

June 18 Sylvia Teigen

July 16 Carolyn Edwards

June 25 Linda Koester

July 23 Kathy Krogstad

July 30 Germaine Gress



Bible
STUDY
Join us!

Bible Study

Wednesday, June 7

5:30-7:00 p. m.

Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, June 13

1:30 p.m.

Fryn' Pan



Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out

7:30 a.m., June 30

Fryn' Pan



Pastoral Care

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact Pastor Bruce at 218-329-2245.

Kids Corner is taking the summer off ... see you in September!



Veteran's Coffee Hour

Join your fellow veterans at the Fargo Air Museum from 10-noon Wednesday, June 14.

Celebrate Dads!

Sunday, June 18th



First Day of Summer

June 20

With Our Thanks

Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of the Partyke Family

Jenifer Partyke

In Memory of Donald Nelson

Don Nelson Family

In Memory of Evangeline Johnson

Don & Wendy Johnson

In Memory of Ardoth Kragnes

Roger Kragnes



That beautiful season the Summer!
Filled was the air with a dreamy and
magical light' and landscape lay as if
new created in all the freshness of
childhood.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Many Thousand Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Heritage Luncheon in May! You pitched in with helping hands to make the *rømmegrøt*, *krumkaker*, og *pepperkaker* and were there to set up for the luncheon and then serve our luncheon guests on Saturday.



A special thank you to Sue Kassenborg for stepping in at the last minute to organize the many tasks needing to be done before, during and after the luncheon.

A musical group from Trinity Church presented an awesome program of music by Grieg. They did indeed share with us wonderful sounds from Norway through piano duets, the violin and voices!!

Mange tusen takk alle sammen! Orpha Hoelstad



When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.

Tecumseh

Strawberry Salad



Ingredients

- 1 head Romaine lettuce
- 2 cups of shredded cabbage
- 1 ½ cups golden raisins
- 1 cup of red grapes, halved
- 1 pt of strawberries, sliced
- ½ red onion, sliced
- ¼ cup pine nuts
- ¼ cup sliced almonds
- Creamy poppy seed dressing

Directions

- Mix lettuce, cabbage, raisins, grapes, strawberries and onion in a large bowl.
- Add dressing and mix to lightly coat ingredients
- Top with pine nuts and almonds





From the Moorhead Daily News

Monday, June 3, 1935

O. N. Espeland, 93,

of Morken Dies

Funeral Arrangements Not Completed

For Long-Time Resident

Osten N. Espeland, 93, died at the home of his son Ole Espeland in Morken Township Saturday night.

Born in Norway October 13, 1841, he had lived in the United States 48 years. He is survived by two sons, Nels, Ontario Canada and Ole, Morken Township; and two daughters, Mrs. Charles Tostrude, Park Rapids, and Mrs. Alex Morken, Morken Township.

Funeral arrangements have not been made. The body is at Wright Funeral Home.

Tuesday, June 4, 1935

Espeland Services To Be Held Here Wednesday

Funeral services for O. N. Espeland, 93, who died at his home in Morken Township Saturday, will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at

Wright Funeral Chapel, and at 3 p.m. at the Concordia Lutheran Church with Rev. C. B. Runsvold officiating. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Gilbert and E. Kragnes, Severt Rasmussen, O Matson, Nick Larson, and Anders Sorenson.

Thursday, June 6, 1935

“Social Notes”

Mrs. Joseph Kise, 916 Eleventh Street South, was soloist at the funeral of O N Espeland, Morken Township, held at the Concordia Lutheran Church. Mrs. Stanley Cowan, 915 Second Street South, was her accompaniest.

Thursday, June 23, 1938

Adell Espeland Weds Swanson

at Concordia Church

Ceremony took place Wednesday evening; Couple to make their home in Moorhead

Miss Adell Espeland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Espeland of Felton, became the bride of Sam Swanson, son of Mrs. Thea

Swanson, 604 5th Avenue South, at a ceremony performed at Concordia Church Wednesday evening. Rev. C. B. Runsvold conducted the ceremony at 8 o'clock.

A gown of pink net over taffeta was worn by the bride. She carried a bouquet of peonies and wore flowers in her hair. Her sister Miss Pearl Espeland as bridesmaid was gowned in a blue organdy and wore a corsage of roses and sweet peas. Mr. Carl Swanson, brother of the groom, was best man. Bud Swanson, another brother, and Lloyd Kragnes, cousin of the bride, were ushers. Music during the ceremony was played by Mrs. T. Skrei and Robert Heckethier sang "I Love You Truly."

A reception in the church parlors followed the ceremony. About 200 friends and relatives attended. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson are on a wedding trip to the lakes region, but will return to Moorhead to make their home at 604 5th Avenue South after June 26. Mr. Swanson is employed by Bergland Oil Company. Mrs. Swanson, a graduate of MSTC, taught in Sabin last year.

Out of town guests at the wedding included Mr. and Mrs. George Ous of McIntosh, and Miss Amy Gunderson, Benson.

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Bible Study 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 7

Concordia Women 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 13

Veteran Coffee Hour 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 14

ROMEOs 7:30 a.m., Friday, June 30

Birthdays

June 5 Mavis Wang

June 16 Kathy Krogstad

June 26 Walter Teigen

Anniversaries

June 3 Harold & Sally Horpedahl

June 22 Walter & Sylvia Teigen

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The large print edition of Concordia News is only available on-line.

To submit an item for the newsletter:

E-mail news@concordianews.org

Write: Sylvia Teigen

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