

# Concordia News – Large Print

## July 2020

Volume 15      A newsletter for members, family, and friends of Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Cemetery Association      Number 7



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## From Pastor Bruce

At the time of this writing it is the day before Independence Day.

Given that in the email message for this past Sunday I spoke about Freedom from a biblical perspective it seemed appropriate that the voice of Martin Luther be heard on this matter as well. Luther wrote a treatise entitled "The Bondage of the Will" in which he elucidated the Apostle Paul's doctrine of justification. In it he repudiated "works righteousness" saying that not only is there nothing that humans can do to save themselves but even more so that "natural man", that is unredeemed person (non-Christian) can do nothing to save him or herself. Our salvation is not a collaborative effort between God and us but is wholly dependent on God. Luther looked at scripture and the history of Church and came to believe that we were saved by God's grace and only by that grace. In his work "The Bondage of the Will", he provides the biblical rational for the thesis that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. This sounds like a negative title for book, but the concept is what secures our total dependency on Christ for our righteousness before a perfect God. Luther compares "self righteousness", where we take partial credit for our right relationship with God, to "alien righteousness", where we acknowledge that our right relationship with God has

From Pastor Bruce

nothing to do with us but only with God. It is a righteousness that comes not from within but from without.

A later work of Luther's was entitled, "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520 AD). In it Luther states that now that God has done it all for us through Christ and now that we have nothing to do to secure our salvation, we have "everything to do". God has liberated us from Sin, death and the powers of darkness in order that we may pass that gift on to others both through word and deed. This is not done to earn God's favor or even to pay him back. We serve our neighbor not out of guilt, shame or a sense of indebtedness but out of gratitude for what God has done for us. We don't love our neighbor as we love ourselves for any other reason than we want to. Having experienced the most perfect love and self-sacrifice of what Jesus did for us on the cross and empty tomb, we spontaneously pay it forward to those that we encounter. The Apostle Paul stated that for freedom Christ has set us free. Luther rephrased that by saying, "A Christian is perfectly a free lord of all people, subject to no one (but God). A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." ((The Freedom of a Christian)).

We have been blessed to be born into a country that while flawed, had great (and flawed) founders that crafted the Constitution and Bill

From Pastor Bruce

of Rights that along with God's grace, created the rock solid foundation for the building of our republic. God has showered his favor on us through Christ and through being born into the United States of America. Let us live our lives so that all Americans would experience release from bondage not just of the will but any bondage that would prevent all our fellow citizens from fully experiencing the freedom that is inherent in the gospel and the freedom which is due to all who live in our great land. God bless America and God bless you and yours this Independence Day weekend.

*Pastor Bruce*

218-329-2245



With Our Thanks  
**Coffee and Cookie Servers**  
*(when services resume)*



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July 5	Kathy Krogstad	August 2	Sue Kassenborg
July 12	Linda Koester	August 9	Carolyn Edwards
July 19	Barb Grover	August 16	Lloyd Eidem
July 26	Becky Jegtvig	August 23	Orpha Hoelstad
		August 30	Clinton Babolian

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Weekly worship will continue to be suspended due to the Corona Virus. I am available for conversation and pastoral care 24/7. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 218-329- 2245.

Kathy and I will not be distributing Holy Communion on July 5 but on July 12. She took a tumble off a ladder incurring 10 cranial staples and some bruises. After a thorough check up, including Cat Scan, she was quickly released to begin the process of healing.

*Pastor Bruce*

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May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but the right to do what is right.

*~Peter Marshall, chaplain, United States Senate 1947-1949*

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*Thank  
You*

**With Our Thanks**

Thank you for your prayers and support for Sylvia during her illness and for her husband Walter and daughter Karolynn Decker following Sylvia's passing.

May God bless the memory of Sylvia Teigen.

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America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and on unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.

*~President Harry S. Truman*

In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay the American dream the highest tribute.

*~Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall*

With Our Thanks

# We Need Your Support



With worship services and other activities suspended for over two months, your donation to the general fund of any amount can help fill that gap. Donations to the cemetery fund and newsletter are always greatly appreciated as well.

## **General Fund:**

Make checks out to Concordia Lutheran Church and mail to:

Ray Johnson

7333 70 St N

Glyndon MN 56547

## **Concordia Newsletter**

Make checks out to Concordia News and mail to:

Walter Teigen

915 4th Avenue South

Moorhead MN 56560

## **Concordia Cemetery Association:**

Make checks out to the association and mail to:

Ray Johnson

7333 70 St N

Glyndon MN 56547

# Recipe of the Month

## *Southwest Pasta Salad*



### Ingredients

kosher salt

1 lb. dry bow tie pasta (or your choice)

1 15-oz. can corn kernels

1 15-oz. can black beans

1 c. shredded cheddar

1 c. halved cherry tomatoes

2 avocados, diced

1/3 c. chopped cilantro

### *For the dressing*

1 c. Greek yogurt

1/3 c. extra-virgin olive oil

1 tbsp. honey

1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 limes, juiced

1/2 jalapeño, chopped

1 1/2 tbsp. taco seasoning

kosher salt

### Directions

- In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta according to package directions until al dente. Drain and cool, 5 minutes.
- Dressing: Mix ingredients. Taste and add salt as desired.
- Stir corn, black beans, cheese, tomatoes, avocados and cilantro in with pasta. Toss with dressing. Cover tightly and refrigerate 1 hour before serving.



# Red River Girl

*A book from Norway about the Buffalo River Settlement*

*as told by Orabel Thortvedt*



The West Telemark Museum in Norway is sponsoring an exhibit about the Buffalo River Settlement from June 15, 2020 – September 15, 2021. A group from

West Telemark visited Moorhead a couple of years ago to gather information and review Orabel's scrapbooks to glean information for the exhibit. From their website:

The history of the *Buffalo River* settlement - all the way up north in Minnesota, not far from the double town of Fargo / Moorhead - is legendary since 1909, when Torkel Oftelie mentioned it in the first issue of *Telesoga* . Central to this story is the Geitestad (later Thortvedt) family from Fyresdal who emigrated to the Midwest in 1861. After nearly 10 years in Houston County, they

began the legendary *Red River Trek* - a pioneering walk to the undeveloped plains between the Red River and Buffalo River, where they settled in 1870. History is documented by the artist Orabel Thortvedt (1896-1983) through numerous paintings, drawings and scrapbooks. It is this material the story is told through, both in the exhibition and as a magnificent book.

The book, "Red River Girl" has been published in Norway and tells the story both in Norwegian and in English. It will be available in the US through Telelaget, the organization of descendants of immigrants from Telemark. Filled with photos and Orabel's sketches, it offers the story of the journey to Clay County and the early years of the settlement on the Buffalo along with biographical information about Orabel herself.

A copy will be donated to Concordia Church for those of you who would like to take a look at it. It is indeed a "magnificent book" - hardcover, roughly 9" X 13", art silk paper, a true "coffee table book." It would be a great addition to your personal library, and would make a great gift for anyone interested in the history of the Buffalo River Settlement.

The book's arrival in the US is scheduled for August of this year. When it is available, ordering information will be included in *Concordia News*.



*From the*  
**Moorhead Daily News**

**July 14, 1938**

**Page Three**

**“Miss Preston is Honor Guest at Parties Today”**

Miss Ruth Jane Preston, whose marriage to Harold Bekkerus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bekkerus, near Glyndon, will take place on July 20, will be guest of honor at parties today and Friday.

This afternoon Mrs. Bekkerus will entertain 50 relatives and friends at a miscellaneous shower at her home. Miss Betty Trace of Fargo is to host a miscellaneous shower this evening, the guests being members of the Presbyterian church choir in Fargo, to which Miss Preston belongs.

Friday evening Mrs. N. H. Hinkle and Mrs. R. P. Roberts will entertain at a towel shower at the Hinkle residence. Guests will be members of the Fargo-Moorhead Women’s chorus. Miss Preston has sung in the chorus.

# Dates to Remember

***Worship Services and all other congregation activities have been suspended until further notice.*** A decision about resuming Sunday worship and activities will be made at the appropriate time.

## ***Communion Visits***

July 12

## ***Birthdays***

July 4 Sue Kassenborg

July 15 Michael Edwards

July 20 Jim Koester

July 21 Linda Koester

July 22 Pastor Bruce

July 25 Gerald Hagene

Sammy Hatman

July 26 Myron Hagene

July 30 Phylis Nelson

## ***Anniversaries***

July 18 Diane and Leo Murr

**JULY 2020**

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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](mailto:news@concordianews.org)

**Write:** Alene Sladky

6938 State Hwy 200 NW

Laporte MN 56461



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**Concordia Newsletter Staff**

**Editors:** Karolynn Decker & Alene Sladky

**Treasurer/Distribution:** Walter Teigen

**Web Edition:** Alene Sladky