

Concordia News – Large Print

November 2020

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Concordia Cemetery Association



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From Pastor Bruce



1 John 3:1-3

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Fellow children of God,

Here are some reflections on the Church Year, All Saints Day and Advent.

All Saints Day aptly follows Reformation Day. Reformation Day reminds us that none of us is righteous apart from a relationship with Jesus Christ. All Saints Day reminds us of the destiny we all share in common with those that have died in the faith before us. While the Lutheran tradition states that all who believe and are baptized are saved (and thereby are saints) the Catholic church has a tradition that raises the bar much higher. It is easy for Lutherans to be critical of this enterprise of identifying individuals who "deserve" to be considered "saints" as Luther also stated that all Christians are both saints and sinners. Based on this it is easy for Lutherans to dispel

From Pastor Bruce

the whole Roman Catholic enterprise of beatification of anyone. While I do not quarrel with Luther's notion that faith apart from works is the only prerequisite for sainthood, nonetheless, it is interesting to look at those that the Catholic Church has identified as "saints". Most Lutherans, upon a careful reading of these "saints" would agree that there truly is something exceptional about most of these Christians. They would learn about the courage and resolve of these individuals to stand in opposition to anti-Christian/anti-human totalitarianism when they could have saved their lives by simply staying silent but recognized that such an out would be a betrayal of the Christian faith. Therefore they spoke the truth of the Kingdom of Christ in direct confrontation against the reigning secular powers whose actions betrayed their rebellion of God's Kingdom leading to violations of not only Christian lives but of most people under their rule. So while these heroic Christians are not any more "saints" than any more believer, for the most part these individuals are inspiration not only to Roman Catholics but also to all Christians. By being willing to sacrifice their own self-interest, even their lives, they have been examples to all of us as to what it might mean for us to live out our Christian faith should we find ourselves in similar times?

From Pastor Bruce

We do not need to look far. What does it mean to be a Christian in Pakistan? What does it mean to be a Christian in Saudi Arabia? What does it mean to be a Christian in a country that recently declared itself to be secular but under its recent leader has dedicated itself to rebuilding the Muslim Ottoman Empire that threatened Europe for hundreds of years? What does it mean to be a Christian Kurd or a Christian Armenian?

Lest we extend our gaze to "those people out there" what about where you live? What does it mean to be a Christian Democrat or a Christian Republican during this election? I have no doubt that all of you will vote your conscience and your values. But here is the challenge: are individuals who voted opposite you unbelievers or heretics or anti-Americans? Is it possible that those who voted "wrong" might not be condemned by God at the last day? Could it be possible that they too might be saints, according to Luther's understanding?

Here is the most important question. Once this pandemic relents and we go back to our churches (what a glorious day that will be to see you all together instead of one by one just once a month, Kathy and I miss this so much) will we fully embrace our brothers and sisters in Christ (even we stoic types, such as myself might be overcome by such a drought of fellowship might turn into huggers)

From Pastor Bruce

will we have the same feelings to those who we suspect might have voted opposite us? No easy thing, especially if their "side" won? Are we willing to reject the hyper partisans who might suggest that our fellow parishioners who voted against us should be our enemies? Is the power of our baptism and our adoption into the community of Christ going to be shattered by our partisan preferences? Will we become Judges, Jurys and Executioners? Will self-righteousness overwhelm our Lutheran understanding that we are brothers and sisters in Christ? Should you be so tempted, the founders of Concordia Lutheran did not add to Concordia Lutheran the name "Democrat" or "Republican". Jesus would not join either party when he returns as he will be instituting a Kingdom which is so much better than anything we can comprehend, no matter how dedicated we are to our preferred party.

Upon Christ's return we will be reminded of our status as sinners and his status as Savior. We will experience not our self-righteousness but rather Divine righteousness. Should you object, ask yourself, for whom did Christ go to the cross for? We are all sinners in need of Christ's redeeming. Fellow redeemed sinners are both Democrats and Republicans. These are our brothers and sisters in Christ,

From Pastor Bruce

So when we gather together when this pandemic disappears, my guess is that there will be no difference in warm handshakes or hugs, our greetings of each other will not have anything to do with partisan persuasion. It will have to do with our shared common status as Children of God saved not by works but by the blood of His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bruce

Announcements and Assignments
Coffee and Cookie Servers
(when services resume)



November 1	Polly Hanson	December 6	Sue Kassenborg
November 8	Becky Jegtvig	December 13	JoLyn Johnson
November 15	Kathy Krogstad	December 20	Orpha Hoelstad
November 22	Irene Olson	December 27	Lloyd Gunderson
November 29	Clinton Babolian		



If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, or if you'd just like to talk through your concerns about the pandemic, contact Pastor Bruce at his **new number: 218-431-0995**.

Because of COVID-19, worship services have been suspended until further notice. This is done out of concern for our members' health and well-being, with consideration given to the median age of the congregation.

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.

Update on income and expenses for 2020:

Budgeted marked offerings for 2020 was \$32,000.00. To date we have collected \$8,400.00, leaving us \$23,600.00 behind in marked offerings collected.

To make our 2020 budget goals we need to mail our yearly offering in. The expenses still exist and need to be paid. To date the church's savings account has been paying the bills.

Please remit your contributions to: Ray Johnson, 7333 70th St. N, Glyndon, MN 56547

Thank you for your continued support of Concordia Lutheran Church. Donations to the cemetery fund and newsletter are always greatly appreciated as well.

THANK YOU ... to Alene Sladky for donating a copy of "Red River Girl: The Art of Orabel Thortvedt" to the church's library.

Recipe of the Month

Cranberry Chutney



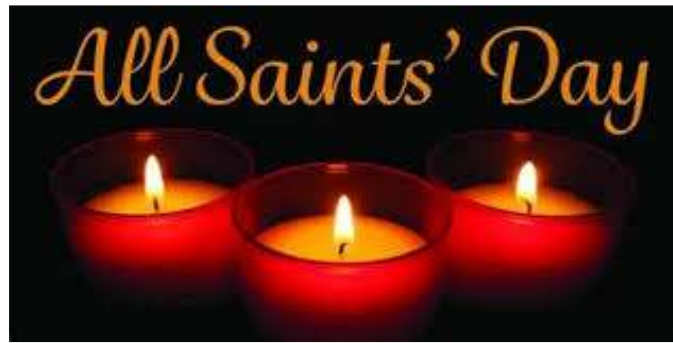
Ingredients

- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 10 chopped dried figs
- 12 oz. bag (2 cups) fresh cranberries
- 1 small jalapeno pepper (2 TB), minced
- ¾ cup diced fresh apple

Directions

- In a heavy sauce pan set over medium-high heat, bring the apple cider vinegar and sugar to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until sugar dissolves (2-3 minutes).
- Add cloves, cinnamon, figs, cranberries, jalapeno and apple. Bring back up to a boil then simmer for 15 minutes or until fruit is soft, stirring occasionally.

Serve warm with turkey. Store for up to two weeks in an airtight container. This chutney is also a tasty addition to a cheese plate.



November 1st is All Saints Day. It is the day set aside on the Lutheran church calendar to honor all those people who have lived their faith. This year it also falls on a Sunday.

The first saints were the 12 Disciples. Some saints are famous martyrs who died for the faith - like Saint Stephen. Some saints are just people who lived according to their faith in God and enriched others with their goodness - including people we know - a neighbor, relative, or friend. These saints are known by name only to those whose lives they touched, but they are people of faith who made a difference.

In the Apostles Creed we say that we believe in the Communion of Saints. Martin Luther talked about all of us as part of a "royal priesthood of believers." In the New Testament the Apostle Paul talks about the church as the body of Christ with Jesus as its head. These phrases - the body of Christ, royal priesthood of believers, and the Communion of Saints - mean just about the same thing for Lutherans.

We believe that all Christians, living and dead, are connected together through their faith in God and the saving grace of Jesus. On All Saint's Day we celebrate the blessings of faith shared with us as a legacy from those who came before or a gift from those around us. Our pastors, Sunday School teachers, those who founded our church and those who in the past and are currently serving our faith community in big and small ways, and the family and community members who show us by example how to live our faith every day.

We also celebrate the blessings that happen when people of faith work for good, both as individuals and together, not just in the past but also in the present. We look forward with assurance that the faithful will continue to work individually and together toward Christian goals in the future.

Clay County Seniors News Column

Robin Christianson, CCAP, NCRI

Senior Program Coordinator, Economic Empowerment

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This past weekend my 3 girls got their flu shots at an event called Boo to the Flu. The best way to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications is with a flu vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends that almost

everyone 6 months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine each year by the end of October.

Flu vaccination is especially important for people 65 years and older because they are at high risk of developing serious complications from flu. Flu vaccines are updated each season as needed to keep up with changing viruses. Also, immunity wanes over a year so annual vaccination is needed to ensure the best possible protection against flu. A flu vaccine protects against the flu viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season.

www.cdc.gov/flu

www.medicare.gov/coverage/flu-shots

The Social Security Administration announced a few weeks ago that social security and supplemental security income (SSI) benefits will increase by a 1.3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2021. Curious to know what your new benefit amount? In December, Social Security will post COLA notices online for beneficiaries who have a *my Social Security* account. You will also still receive your COLA notices by mail.

Medicare Open Enrollment will continue until December 7th. The 2021 edition of the Health Care Choices for Minnesotans on Medicare has been posted online at

www.mnhealthcarechoices.com.

You can also utilize the website to order a copy and one will be mailed to you. Please reach out if you need assistance.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, I will not be able to set up any face to face appointments for open enrollment. I do have the capability of scheduling a virtual Zoom session with you and your loved ones if interested. Feel free to contact me 1-800-333-2433 extension 80099.



Applebee's — Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal from among eight entrees.

Bakers Square — Free meal for vets and active duty.

Buffalo Wild Wings — Free order of small boneless or traditional wings and fries.

Chili's — Active duty and veterans can choose a free dine-in meal from a select menu including Cajun chicken pasta and chicken bacon ranch quesadillas.

Country Kitchen — Free Country Scramble with pancakes and eggs.

Denny's: From 5 a.m. to noon, all veterans and active-duty personnel get a Build Your Own Grand Slam meal, with possibilities including pancakes, eggs, bacon, fruit, and hash browns.

Dunkin' Donuts — Free doughnut for active duty and veterans. One per person.

Golden Corral — Free buffet dinner and beverage from 5-9 p.m. Nov. 11 for retirees, veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserves.

IHOP — Free breakfast combo or a free stack of Red, White and Blueberry pancakes for vets and active duty.

Ponderosa Steakhouse: Both Ponderosa and its sister chain Bonanza Steakhouse offer free meals for veterans and active military from 4 p.m. until closing.

Red Lobster — Veterans, retired and active-duty military personnel receive a free appetizer or dessert from a limited menu that includes lobster pizza and Brownie Overboard.

Starbucks — Free coffee to veterans, active duty and military families.

TCBY— Free 6-ounce frozen yogurt for vets.

Village Inn — Free breakfast for vets, active duty.

Little Caesars — Free lunch combo 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; includes 4 slices of deep-dish pizza and a beverage. Vets and active duty.

Olive Garden — Free meal from limited menu for vets and active duty. Includes unlimited soup or salad, plus breadsticks.

Outback Steakhouse — All active and former service members receive a free Bloomin' Onion and a beverage on Nov. 11. Outback is also offering active and former service members and first responders 20 percent off meals Nov. 8-11.

Thanksgiving 2020

For most of us, the year 2020 can't end too soon! It has been a year of isolation filled with illness and loss, civil unrest, natural disasters, and political turmoil.

It has also been a year in which many of us have learned the true value of family, friends, kind strangers, and especially the strength that can come from our faith.



THANKSGIVING TRIVIA

- Q.1. What is the day after Thanksgiving known as?
- Q.2. When did the first national Thanksgiving Day take place?
- Q.3. Which German holiday closely resembles Thanksgiving?
- Q.4. When was the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?
- Q.5. Who is the Greek goddess of the harvest?
- Q.6. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada?
- Q.7. How many days did the first Thanksgiving last?
- Q.8. Which U.S state consumes the most Turkey?
- Q.9. How many pilgrim's traveled to America in Mayflower?
- Q.10. Which Indian tribe helped the pilgrims?
- Q.11. What product owes its existence to Thanksgiving?
- Q.12. What is the weight of the largest Turkey?
- Q.13. What is a group of domesticated turkeys called?
- Q.14. How many NFL games are played on Thanksgiving?
- Q.15. How many different varieties of pumpkins are there?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| 10). The Wampanoag | 6). October | 8). California | | |
| 1). Black Friday | 11). TV Dinner | 2). November 26, 1789 | | |
| 14). 2 | 7). 3 Days | 4). 1924 | 12). 86lbs | 13). Gang |
| 3). Erntedankfest | 15). 45 | 5). Demeter | 9). 102 | |

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.

Birthdays

November 1 Alene Sladky

November 9 Neil Hanson

November 11 Ruth Farabee

November 23 Eileen Killian

Anniversary

November 26 Kjell & Orpha Hoelstad

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