Volume 11 Issue 3

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



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"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

March, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The cross of Jesus Christ is the number one symbol of Christianity. It makes sense that it would be. On the cross, our Savior paid the price for the sins of the world. In His own words from the cross – <u>"It is finished."</u> (John 19:30) – Jesus declared the price had been paid in full for our sins. Forgiveness and salvation are fully and freely given to us by grace, for Christ's sake.

But I think the cross is more than just a symbol. In today's world it would be like the ultimate "brand". Martin Luther believed that God's revelation to us often comes in paradoxes (statements that assert ideas contrary to human reason but are revealed to be true by the Bible). Look at Romans 5:8 for an example of these paradoxes – <u>"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."</u> There are many ways one could think of demonstrating love. But suffering and dying on a cross are not what we normally associate with love. Yet the Bible makes it clear that the greatest demonstration of God's love takes place in the tortuous death of His Son on the cross. This greatest of all paradoxes led Luther to write: "The cross puts everything to the test."

Luther felt that the true affects of the cross extend far beyond its role as the place where salvation was achieved. For him, the cross was the key to Christian existence. It was the key to our knowledge of God and to the dynamics of Christian life. I think he might agree that the cross was like a lens and we should view the reality of our lives through it.

This year, on the Sundays in Lent, we will explore this deeper meaning of the cross. We will let the cross test things in life and see the richness of faith that lies in the results of that testing. We will let the cross be our secure standpoint from which we can view life with God.

Our series title will be: "Digging Deeper into the Cross". On March 9th, our first message will be entitled: "God, Show Me Your Glory!" based on Exodus 33:12-23. I invite you to join us for this series of messages on our Lenten Sundays and during Holy Week.

During Lent we also gather on six Wednesdays for midweek Lenten devotional services along with a soup supper downstairs in the church basement. Beginning on March 5^{th} , our Wednesday evening schedule will be:

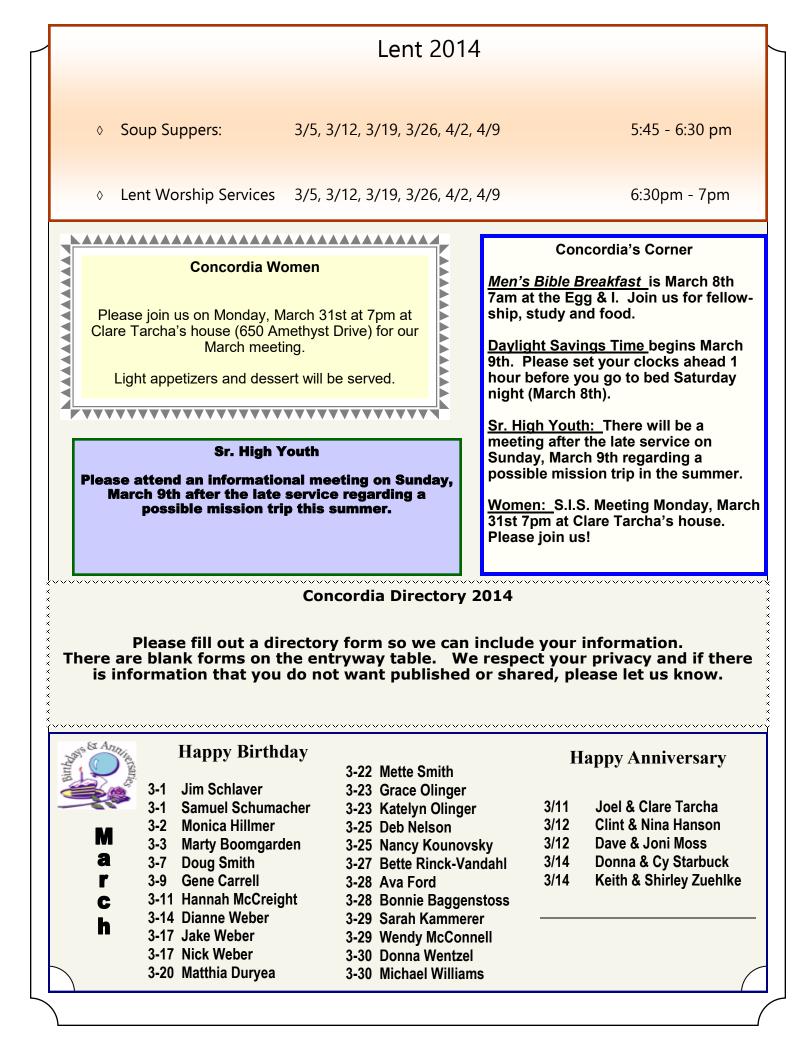
5:45 – 6:30pm for Soup Supper 6:30 - 7:00pm for Lenten devotional worship

As a part of our midweek services we will read through the Passion History of our Lord Jesus Christ as combined from the 4 Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

I look forward to journeying with you this Lenten season!

Peace+ Pastor Dave





CONCORDIA'S JANUARY 2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY BOTTOM LINE VERSION

P&L SUMMARY	MTH ACT	MTH BUD	YTD ACT	YTD BUD	YTD +/-
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 17,464	\$ 19,017	\$ 17,464	\$ 19,017	(\$ 1,553)
EXPENSES	\$ 19,646	\$ 22,044	\$ 19,646	\$ 22,044	(\$ 2,398)
PROFIT/LOSS	(\$ 2,182)	(\$ 3,028)	(\$ 2,182)	(\$ 3,028)	\$ 846

MONTHLY ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

- January revenue was under budget but did exceed January of 2013 by \$1,748.
- January expenses underran budget by more than \$2,000.
- The actual January shortfall was less than budgeted by \$846 and was covered from cash reserves.

CASH AVAILABLE:	MORTGAGE (4.25%):				
YVB CHECKING		\$ 17,783	BALANCE	1/31/2014	\$ 257,441
LCEF MMF TOTAL	\$ 79,729				
LESS SPECIFIED	\$ 43,633				
LCEF AVAILABLE		<u>\$ 36.096</u>			
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE		\$ 53,878			

