



## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs. Colorado 80487

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

February, 2015

### Transfiguration

Thirty years ago I had the wonderful privilege of visiting some of the great cathedrals in Europe. Many of the most gifted artists who ever lived used their talents to glorify God with wood, stone and glass. These magnificent churches proclaim God's majesty and glory to all who see them. Beautiful as they are, I couldn't help wondering, why does it have to be so dark inside? The marvelous stained glass windows were stingy with the light, hoarding each ray, not allowing a single drop of sunshine to reach the floor.

Years later I discovered that far from reveling in darkness, medieval Europeans were bathed in an ocean of gorgeous, colored light as they worshipped. It seems, just like at my house, no one volunteered to wash the windows for five or six hundred years until all the dust and pollution left a dense film of soot that all but prevented the heavenly light from getting in.

*"For now we see through a glass darkly,"* St. Paul says of the Christian life in 1 Corinthians 13:12, *"but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known"* (1 Cor. 13:12).

Over the centuries since Adam first introduced the pollution of sin into our world, a thick film of soot has kept God's light from shining through *your* dark glass. The glory of God is prevented from penetrating your inner darkness by the prodigious layer of sin obstructing the window to your inner sanctuary.

Not willing to give up on you, God rolls up His sleeves and does the dirty work. God Himself washes you clean in Baptism so that the glorious light of His salvation may shine all the way to the floor, illuminating the dark sanctuary of your sinful heart with His heavenly light.

*"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"* (2 Cor. 4:6).

With our spiritual 'glass' cleaned and made transparent by the Baptismal Water, we are now bathed in the heavenly light, transformed from the deathly darkness of sin into the reflection of God's own glory. *"All of us"* St. Paul writes of baptized believers in 2 Corinthians 3, *"beholding as through a glass, with unveiled faces, the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another"* (2 Co 3:18).

Now that the Europeans have discovered the beauty of a clean window, they've promised not to wait another five hundred years before washing them again! It is the same for each one of us. In Baptism, we are washed clean, but straight away we are sent out into an unclean world where we begin almost immediately to cover ourselves again with the soot of sin!

*"The old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires"* Dr. Luther writes of the Baptismal life in his Small Catechism, *"a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever"* (S. C. p. 210).

Each day you and I need to return to God's Baptismal cleansing by repenting of sin, turning away from it and allowing God to wash us clean so that the heavenly light of His glory and righteousness may reach to *every* corner and crevice of our sin-darkened sanctuaries.

February 15<sup>th</sup> is Transfiguration Sunday. On this day we celebrate the light of God's glory that is revealed in the man Jesus Christ. On the mountaintop, Jesus allows His disciples a glimpse of the glory to come upon all of us on that great day when God will transfigure every Baptized believer into the likeness of His Son:

*"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality . . . The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is never in vain!"* (1 Co 15:51-58).

--Pastor Harmon



### Happy February Birthdays

2/6 Nina Hanson  
2/13 Hope Scott  
2/15 Jeremy Schumacher  
2/16 Tom Hillmer  
2/17 Bettiann Carrell

2/17 Patrick Smith  
2/21 Ryan Hogrefe  
2/21 Jackson McCreight  
2/24 Keith Zuehlke  
2/27 Mariah Starbuck

### Happy February Anniversaries

2-26 Tim & Marcia Fortkamp

## Welcome New Member!

*Candace Pedersen*

### Concordia Members' Corner.....

**Men's Bible Breakfast** is February 14th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for food, fellowship and Bible study.

**Pictures for the Concordia Directory** will be taken during the month of February. Please stop by after each service and have your picture taken.



## Call Committee Update

We thank you for your prayers, please continue to pray for us and for God's will as we will soon begin the interview process.

The four top candidates will be contacted this week and interviews will be set up.

The Call Committee has worked very hard to identify candidates based on Concordia's Self Study and Survey results and your input.

Thank you for your patience and support.

*Concordia's Call Committee*

## Lent 2015

*We will be celebrating Lent on Tuesday Evenings starting 2/17- please join us!*

**Ash Wednesday will be celebrated: Tuesday, February 17th**

**Soup Suppers will be Tuesdays starting 2/17 from 5:30-6:30**

**Lent Services will be Tuesdays 2/25-3/25 at 6:30pm**

***\* Please sign up on the entryway table to make soup, or bring rolls & desserts***



Concordia's Website .....



The address is: [www.steamboatlutheran.org](http://www.steamboatlutheran.org)

Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!